

Weather

	High Today 42	Low Tonight 37	
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After 6 years, Obama personal chef hangs up apron

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Political advisers, chiefs of staff, press secretaries and national security advisers have come and gone in the nearly six years Barack Obama has been president. Now, Obama's personal chef is waving goodbye.

Sam Kass has been a fixture at the executive mansion, serving up nutrition policy alongside meals for Obama, his wife, Michelle, and daughters Malia and Sasha. He was not only their personal chef but senior adviser for nutrition policy, giving him a seat at the table where administration officials hashed out everything from updated food labels to new requirements for healthier school lunches.

Kass, a newlywed, is leaving the White House at the end of the month, but don't ask him what the Obamas like or don't like to eat. "Top secret," he said.

"I love this family and believe in everything the president and first lady are doing and this has been the greatest job of my life and I assume will be the greatest job of my life," the 34-year-old Chicago native said in an interview. "But I'm going to be with my wife. Once you're married you kind of need to be together."

Kass' wife, MSNBC host Alex Wagner, is based in New York City.

Kass' relationship with the Obamas started when they hired him to cook healthier meals for the family in Chicago before the 2008 elections. Michelle Obama was a vice president at the University of Chicago Medical Center and caring for young daughters, while Obama was a U.S. senator spending most of his time in Washington.

But the relationship sprouted well beyond the professional. Besides Kass' tireless work for Mrs. Obama, for whom he wore a third hat as executive director of her anti-childhood obesity campaign, Kass sometimes traveled with Obama and joined his weekend or vacation golf outings. Obama, in turn, blocked out several hours on his busy schedule to attend Kass' late-August wedding.

Obama said Kass "has grown from a close friend to a critical member of my team" and has left "an indelible mark on the White House." Mrs. Obama praised Kass' "extraordinary legacy of progress," which she said includes healthier food options in groceries, more nutritious school lunches and initiatives to improve how food is marketed to kids.



Raad Adayleh / aP

Friends and relatives of Mu'ath Safi al-Kaseasbeh, a Jordanian pilot captured by the Islamic State group, gather in the town of Aey near Al Karak in southern Jordan on Wednesday. Islamic State militants captured the pilot after his warplane crashed in Syria while conducting airstrikes Wednesday, the first foreign military member to fall into the extremists' hands since an international coalition launched its bombing campaign against the group months ago.

Jordan: 'Grave consequences' if Islamic State harms pilot

By **MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE** and **NABIH BULOS**
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

AMMAN, Jordan — The Jordanian parliament issued a stern warning Thursday as relatives pleaded with Islamic State militants holding a Jordanian pilot captive.

Jordan's lower house of parliament threatened "grave consequences" if the extremists harm Lt. Moaz Kasasbeh, 26, whose F-16 crashed Wednesday near the Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa in northeastern Syria.

The statement supported Jordan's role in the U.S.-led coalition waging an air campaign against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, and urged the government of King Abdullah II to "do its utmost to ensure a safe return of the pilot."

Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour announced at a news conference in the pilot's hometown south of the capital that international negotiations had begun to save Kasasbeh's life, but he did not elaborate.

The king met Wednesday with the pilot's family. His wife, Queen Rania, posted a message of support on Instagram: a Jordanian flag shaped like a fighter jet with the hashtag "We are all Moaz."

Kasasbeh, one of eight children, has been a pilot for six years, and was married in July.

On Thursday, his father

pleaded for his release, appealing to his captors as fellow Muslims.

"I direct a message to our generous brothers of the Islamic State in Syria: to host my son, the pilot Moaz, with generous hospitality," Safi Kasasbeh said. "I ask God that their hearts are gathered together with love, and that he is returned to his family, wife and mother. We are all Muslims."

The Sunni militants claimed to have shot down the plane with an antiaircraft missile and posted photographs of Kasasbeh being led away, partially clothed and bleeding. They did not release new information Thursday.

The U.S. military said evidence "clearly indicates" that the militants did not shoot down the F-16.

"We can say with certainty that it was an aircraft crash and the plane was not downed by ISIL as was claimed by the terrorist organization," said Carl Hudson, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, using an acronym for the group.

A Jordanian military official also told Petra state news agency Thursday that although the exact cause of the crash was still unknown, the plane was not downed by Islamic State

fire.

But the pilot's relatives said that the Jordanian government told them the plane was downed by a missile.

Younes Kasasbeh said the family was told by the Jordanian government that his nephew was flying at 400 feet on a bombing mission when his plane was struck by a heat-seeking missile and crashed in the Euphrates River.

Three other pilots wanted to rescue him but were afraid he might be killed because he had already fallen into enemy hands, and so they were ordered to return home, the uncle said.

LOTTERIES

Thursday drawings	Indiana	Daily Three-Evening
Michigan Poker Lotto 3C-6C-2H-5H-2S Midday Daily 3 0-8-5 Midday Daily 4 4-6-6-8 Daily 3 1-9-5 Daily 4 3-3-7-2 Fantasy 5 03-05-12-30-34 Keno 03-05-11-14-15-26-28-30-32-35-40-42-48-53-54-55-62-67-68-77-78-79 Mega Millions \$156 million Powerball \$110 million	Quick Draw Midday 03-06-11-12-18-20-21-22-34-37-38-39-45-51-54-55-60-71-75-77 Daily Three-Midday 8-1-4 Daily Four-Midday 7-0-3-2 Illinois Hit or Miss Morning 01-02-03-04-06-14-15-16-17-19-20-24, GLN : 5 Lucky Day Lotto Midday 08-14-17-25-30 Wednesday evening drawings Indiana Cash 5 02-11-22-30-32 Poker Lotto JS-QS-7H-4S-9S Quick Draw Midday 08-10-14-17-20-23-24-26-35-39-40-44-51-59-60-66-72-74-77-78	8-7-9 Daily Four-Evening 5-5-2-7 Quick Draw Evening 04-11-12-13-23-26-28-35-44-47-48-49-51-58-64-66-68-70-74-75 Hoosier Lotto 08-12-13-18-19-25 Powerball 11-12-46-47-50 Powerball: 22 Illinois Hit or Miss Drive 03-04-06-07-10-11-14-15-19-20-21-23, GLN : 3 Hit or Miss Evening 01-04-05-06-07-08-11-16-18-19-20-24, GLN : 4 Hit or Miss Midday 01-02-03-04-05-10-11-12-16-19-22-24, GLN : 2 Pick Four-Evening 2-1-2-1, Fireball: 6 Lucky Day Lotto 07-18-19-21-37

— The Associated Press

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George H.W. Bush to stay in hospital

By **LAUREN RAAB**
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Despite having "another terrific day," former President George H.W. Bush will spend a third night in a Texas hospital, his office announced on Christmas.

Bush, 90, is the nation's oldest former president. His office said Tuesday night that he was taken to Houston Methodist Hospital "as a precaution" after experiencing shortness of breath.

The 41st president "is in great spirits" and wishes everyone a merry Christmas, his office said in a statement Thursday. He received visits from his wife, former first lady Barbara Bush, and from his son and daughter-in-law Neil and Maria Bush, it said.

This isn't the first time Bush has been hospitalized over Christmas. In November 2012, he went to Houston Methodist with a persistent cough. He developed a fever and stayed nearly two months.

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LOCAL & STATE

Berrien County

Berrien Health Dept. buildings will be sold

Bids for main building accepted until Feb. 4

By SCOTT AIKEN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County is moving forward with plans to sell health department buildings that are soon to be vacated. The department is consolidating its operations in an extensively renovated building on Napier Avenue in Benton Township. Buildings now in use, in Benton Harbor and Benton Township, are to be sold. The county is handling

the sale of the main health department building at 769 Pipestone St. in Benton Harbor. Sealed proposals for the building, which is on a 6.89-acre site and has 7,700 square feet of space on each of two levels, will be accepted until 3 p.m. Feb. 4 at the county administrator's office, 701 Main St., St. Joseph. The proposals will be opened at a public meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 5.

The board is to determine the selection process. The property is appraised at \$315,000. County officials have said they recognize the importance of the property to the surrounding neighborhood and the city as a whole, and for that reason will not evaluate proposals on price alone. To be considered, proposals must have complete information, including the name and address of the applicant, the amount offered, down payment and amount to be paid at closing. Also, applicants must state the number of full- and part-time jobs that would be created or relocated with the purchase, whether the organization is a non-profit, and other information. Four other properties are to be sold through a single real estate agent-broker. The county is accepting sealed submissions of qualifications and proposals from agents until 3 p.m. Jan. 14. The selected agent would enter into a contract with the county to provide real state sale services. The proposals are to

opened during a county board meeting scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Jan. 15. The properties are a 5,505 square foot office building at 756 Pipestone; an office building at 785 Pipestone with 3,636 square feet of space that was originally a house; a commercial building at 2106 M-139 with 6,400 square feet; and a vacant, 58,254-square-foot lot that fronts on Starlite Drive. The Pipestone properties are in Benton Harbor while the M-139 building and lot are in Benton Township. Detailed descriptions of

all the properties, along with requirements for purchasing the main health department building or being considered to act as broker for the other properties, are listed on the county website, www.berriencounty.org. The health department is moving next year into a former auto dealership on county-owned property off Napier Avenue near the I-94 interchange. The building has been expanded and extensively renovated at a cost of about \$3.2 million. The moving date is expected to be in February.

Blindness is no barrier

Berrien Springs man makes strides into traditional female role as a doula

By DEBRA HAIGHT
HP Correspondent

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Where others see limitations and reasons to not even try, Berrien Springs resident Ray McAllister sees opportunities and possibilities. Blind for most of his life, he hasn't let that keep him from pursuing his dreams. The dream that has consumed him for much of the past year has been to become a doula. The word "doula" means "a woman who serves," but in recent years it hasn't been only women helping new mothers before, during and after childbirth. A small number of men are becoming doulas — or as some have called them, "dude-las." "I'm likely the first blind male doula anywhere," he said. "I know I'm the first blind male doula in Michigan and the first male doula in Michigan." When asked about what a doula is and does, McAllister said it's about giving support to women before, during and after they give birth. A doula helps women and their partners plan for the birth and provides support through a variety of means including massage and other ways to relieve stress. For his part, he uses items such as hot rocks, cold marble, aroma oils and bamboo sticks to massage the lower back and the large ball he calls "Ber-

tha the birth ball." He stressed that a doula is not a midwife. They are there to provide support, not help women give birth. "The difference between a doula and a midwife is like the difference between a flight attendant and a pilot," McAllister said. "The pilot takes the plane safely from one place to another, the flight attendant sees to the passengers' comfort. The doula is there to give comfort and help the woman feel better with things like massage, music and aromatherapy. The midwife or doctor then can concentrate on getting the baby out." He said that male doulas still face an uphill battle to being accepted, as women feel funny about having another man in the birth room besides their husband or significant other. "A humble man can go and say he cares," he said. "People shouldn't try to legislate who can or can't do it." McAllister said becoming a doula was a natural progression after he received his certification last year as a massage therapist. He has also used his massage skills to give free massages at the last two Ironman events in St. Joseph, as well as other running events in the area. His Berrien Springs business is called Healing's Rays Massage. "I've been good at massage since I was 14," he said. "I would massage the shoulder and neck of my mother and stepdad. I went to massage school in 2012 and got my degree a year later. In Asia, it's actually blind people who

have traditionally done massage." It also served to fulfill his aspiration to be a part of the miracle of birth, as well as making a difference for someone else. He has no children and his wife is past child-bearing age. He completed an online course from the Institute of Somatic Therapy earlier this year and just recently became certified as a massage doula. So far McAllister has assisted three women going through childbirth. "I couldn't find anyone to agree to have me as a doula, and then I decided to reach out to those without much support at the homeless shelter," he said. "I've helped at three births in six weeks. I was there for as long as it took. One woman's labor was 16 hours." Typically during a birth he massages the legs, arms and back to relieve symptoms such as edema in the legs, low back pain and gestational carpal tunnel syndrome. He also helps women with foot pain by using reflexology techniques. McAllister says a recent study has credited a rise in the use of doulas as a reason for the decline in the number of cesarean deliveries. "Doulas help women cut through the stress so there's less need for cesareans," he said. "Having that support and help can cut the pain, the stress and the length of the labor." He sees being a massage therapist and a doula as important part of his ministry, which he bases on a verse in the fourth chapter of the gospel of Matthew. "Jesus said to do preach-



Ray McAllister of Berrien Springs recently received certification as a doula, someone who soothes, assists and comforts during childbirth. McAllister also teaches online biblical subjects for Andrews University. Here he displays a birthing ball and bamboo stick, some tools of the trade for doulas.

ing, teaching and healing and I've done all three," he said. "Healing is an important part of a good ministry." McAllister also holds a doctorate in biblical studies from Andrews University. He teaches online classes in biblical subjects

within the university's school of distance learning. As for the future, McAllister hasn't ruled out trying other new experiences, such as skydiving and bungee jumping. "I have no idea what else I will do," he said. "I have

thrown out the script. I thought I would get my doctorate and then teach and get tenure. ... I have no idea where or what I'm going to be doing in 10 years. I think not having a script is the neatest thing. Having everything all planned isn't fun."

FIRST Robotics to unveil 2015 competition on Jan. 3

By HP STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — This year's robotics challenge will be revealed to teams of local high schools students Jan. 3 at Lake Michigan College in Benton Township during a live broadcast to teams across the nation. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international nonprofit organization that encourages young people to develop an interest in math, science and technology through its robotics program. The students learn from professional engineers and qualify for almost \$14.8 million in college scholarships. Teams will be able to see a partial play field at the kickoff event. The 2015 game rules and objectives will be announced, and the teams will receive their kits of parts so they can begin designing and building their robots for competition. Students will design and assemble robots over a six-week period. Completed robots will later be judged in competitions at the regional, state and global level. Jan. 3 speakers include Bob Harrison, president of Lake Michigan College, and U.S. Rep. Fred Upton. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. with an introduction of the program,



Jermonia Burrell, left, and Robbie Overton, work on the Benton Harbor High School team's robot last March during the 2014 FIRST Robotics District Competition at St. Joseph High School. The local kickoff for this year's competition will be Jan. 3 at Lake Michigan College.

teams and sponsors at LMC's Grand Upton Hall. At 10:30 a.m., there will be a live feed from the FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) headquarters via NASA satellite. The partial play field will be revealed at 11:30 a.m. in the Dance

Drama Room. Teams will be able to collect their kits of parts at 11:45 a.m. A resources workshop will be at noon, with teams working on their strategies from 1-3 p.m. Twenty-six teams from eight area high schools are expected to attend.

Sign bearing Psalm 19:1 removed from public park

GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP (AP) — Some residents in western Michigan's Ottawa County want a sign bearing the Bible's Psalm 19:1 restored to a public park where it had been posted for decades. County Parks and Recreation Director John Scholtz said he had staff take down the sign from Hager Park after a Georgetown Township resident complained it promoted a particular religious view using public resources, MLive.com reported. Current policy prohibits signs that are not used for information, Scholtz said. "We add and remove signs, buildings and structures from the parks on a routine basis," said Scholtz. "In this case, I consulted the parks commission and then decided to have the sign removed in order to reduce potential conflicts in the park." The sign had been in Hager Park since the late

1960s or early 1970s. It was placed there by the county road commission. If Ottawa County allowed it to be returned, other religious expressions might have to be allowed, Scholtz added. He asked a county lawyer to review the issue and make a recommendation. The opinion is expected to be ready by Jan. 13 when county commissioners discuss the sign issue. County officials said they are not sure who authorized placing the sign in the park decades ago. They said they also don't know why Psalm 19:1 was chosen. "I don't know what the board will decide, but I think we need to have the discussion," said County Commissioner Dennis Vandam, of Georgetown Township. One man, Aaron Cooley-Themm, said he has collected about 800 signatures on a petition supporting the sign's return.

VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Sentences

Paw Paw

Clyde Rowless, 45, Decatur, 14 days jail with credit for 14 days served and ordered to pay state and attorney fees for maintaining a drug house in August 2014 in Decatur Township.

Nathaniel Chancellor, 37, Decatur, 365 days jail with credit for 18 days served and two years probation on the New Directions program and ordered to pay state and attorney fees for possession of methamphetamine and maintaining a drug house in August 2014 in Decatur.

Andrew Pugh, 42, Bangor, 1-4 years in prison with credit for 96 days jail and ordered to state fees and full restitution for trespass upon a key facility in November 2013 in Covert Township.

Nathan Porter, 19, homeless, 52 days jail with credit for 52 days served and 2 years probation and ordered to pay state and attorney fees for possession of methamphetamine in October 2014 in Paw Paw Township.

Kevin Buchanan, 24, Benton Harbor, 2 days jail with credit for 2 days served and 2 years probation and ordered to pay state and attorney fees for carrying a concealed weapon in October 2014 in Paw Paw Township.

Edward Hinga, 27, Bangor, 76 months to 30 years in prison and state fees and crime victim's rights fees for domestic violence – third offense in July 2014 in Bangor Township.

John Allan-Michael Logsdon, 24, Paw Paw, was sentenced on probation violation to 30 months to 20 years with credit for 169 days jail. Probation was revoked and fines and costs were adjusted for first-degree home invasion in June 2011 in Paw Paw.

John Allan-Michael Logsdon, 24, Paw Paw, was sentenced on probation violation to 198 days jail with credit for 198 served, probation was revoked and fines and costs were adjusted for breaking and entering with intent in March 2011 in Paw Paw Township.

Rainer Seidel, 69, of Paw Paw,

26 days jail with credit for 26 days served and ordered to pay state fees and court costs and placed on five years probation for second-degree criminal sexual conduct January 2013 in Paw Paw.

Carrie Lynn Angel-Titus, 34, Lawrence, 180 days jail with credit for 48 days and ordered to pay state fees, attorney fees and restitution and placed on 18 months probation for controlled substance – operating/maintaining lab involvement May 2014 in Lawrence Township.

Michiele Andria Campbell, 44, Lawton, 2 days jail with credit for 2 days and ordered to pay state fees, court costs and attorney fees and placed on 12 months probation for controlled substance possession in May 2014 in Lawton.

Jeremiah Daniel Carlson, 37, Lawton one day jail with credit for one day and ordered to pay state fees, court costs, attorney fees and restitution for controlled substance – maintaining a drug house May 2014 in Lawton.

Jason Finley Braswell, 38, Bangor, 77 days jail with credit for 77 days and ordered to pay state fees and court costs and placed on two years Swift and Sure probation for controlled substance-possession of methamphetamine June 2014 in Geneva Township.

Linda Little, 53, Gobles, two days jail with credit for two days jail and ordered to pay state fees for attempted assault with a dangerous weapon July 2014 in Bloomingdale Township.

John Snyder, 38, Covert, 30 months to 5 years prison and ordered to pay state fees for operating while intoxicated – third offense June 2014 in Covert Township.

Angelina Sonia Guajardo, 27, of South Haven was sentenced on a probation violation to six months in jail with credit for 63 days, and probation revoked for controlled substance – possession of methamphetamine February 2014 in South Haven.

Chase Wiggert, 25, LaCrosse, Wisc., three days jail with credit for three days and ordered to pay state fees for delivery/manufacture of marijuana June 2014 in Covert Township.

Macomb County Executive Hackel has role in independent film

By MITCH HOTTS
The Macomb Daily

MOUNT CLEMENS — He’s been a sheriff’s deputy and an elected head of county government.

Now Mark Hackel can add acting to his resume.

The Macomb County executive has a role in “Urban Myths,” an independent film being produced by a former Macomb Township resident and made in Michigan.

“A young lady who used to work in our department contacted me to say she was making a movie and asked if I had any interest in a role as a police officer,” Hackel told The Macomb Daily. “I read the script and it seemed interesting, so I decided to do it.”

Filmed mostly near Gladwin this past summer, “Urban Myths” is the story of a group of high school seniors who head out on a spring break camping trip to check out a series of myths they had heard about. They stumble on a haunted Indian burial ground when scary paranormal activities begin to happen.

The film stars a number of B-list actors and celebrities including Courtney Gains, who was in “Memphis Belle” and “Back to the Future,” Sophie Simmons, daughter of Kiss bassist Gene Simmons, and Gregg Wayans, nephew of Keenen and Damon Wayans.

Hackel, who served as a deputy and the Macomb County sheriff before becoming the county’s first-ever executive, plays the role of Deputy Matthews in the film. It was a comfortable role for him – he even wore his old uniform as a costume.

He received no pay.

Long known as a media-friendly government official, Hackel believes his time in front of television news cameras helped him relax when it was



Carlos Osorio / AP
In this 2007, file photo, Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel, left, and prosecutor Eric Smith speak at a news conference in Mount Clemens, Mich. Hackel, the Macomb County executive, has a role in “Urban Myths,” an independent film being produced by a former Macomb Township resident and made in Michigan.

time to film his scenes.

“The hardest part for me was to work in front of all of the other actors who do this for a living, knowing they’d be critiquing me,” he said. “But once I got that out of my head, I knew my lines and recited them. It was pretty interesting.”

“Urban Myths” was written and directed by Kim Marie for Mirror Dog Productions. A Chippewa Valley High School graduate who studied theater at Macomb Community College before moving to Los Angeles for several years, she met Hackel while working with the Explorers program and as an area volunteer firefighter.

They kept in touch over the years and after she entered the movie industry, offered him a role in the movie. She gave his performance a passing grade.

“I wanted to go into law enforcement initially to protect and serve,” Marie said. “There are some similarities in the two fields. Like a detective, a director has to think fast on their feet. I think Mark was able to catch on.”

Marie, who now resides in Rochester, said the film is almost wrapped up, but producers are turning to crowdfunding to come up with the \$50,000 needed to complete the special effects. Once the financing is complete, the film may be released by the end of 2015 or early 2016.

She also has room for product placement from local businesses if any are interested.

“We have some interest from distributors,” she said. “It would be nice to have a red-carpet premier in Macomb County.”

Michigan Jews, Muslims volunteering on Christmas

DETROIT (AP) — Once again, Jews and Muslims have joined together as volunteers around metropolitan Detroit to help their Christian neighbors celebrate Christmas.

The Detroit News says about 1,000 Jewish and Muslim volunteers from a number of congregations collaborated Thursday on Mitzvah Day. The Michigan Muslim Community Council is coordinating volunteers from its communities.

Dr. Muzammil Ahmed says that support for the joint Christmas Day effort is growing among Muslims despite the terrible year for peace in the Middle East, which saw widespread destruction in the war between Israel and Gaza-based Hamas.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit has sponsored Mitzvah Day for two decades, and Muslims have been joined in for the past six years.

Mitzvah means “commandment” in Hebrew and is generally translated as a good deed.

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Detente spawns Cuban worry on moving to U.S.

By **BEN FOX**
and **ANNE-MARIE GARCIA**
Associated Press

HAVANA — Like tens of thousands of Cubans, Gerardo Luis wants to get to the United States and he's suddenly worried that time may be running out.

Across an island where migrating north is an obsession, the widespread jubilation over last week's historic U.S.-Cuba detente is soured by fear that warming relations will eventually end Cubans' unique fast track to legal American residency.

For nearly a half-century, the Cuban Adjustment Act has given Cubans who arrive in the U.S. a virtually guaranteed path to legal residency and eventual citizenship. The knowledge that they will be shielded from deportation has drawn hundreds of thousands of Cubans on perilous raft trips to Florida and land journeys through Central America and Mexico.

"If they take away the adjustment law, it would mean Cubans would end up just like all the other Hispanics who want to enter the United States," said Luis, a 36-year-old construction worker who said he may try to reach Mexico and walk across the border if he doesn't get a visa soon.

U.S. officials say there are no immediate plans to change immigration laws or policy. But with the U.S. and Cuba negotiating a return to full diplomatic relations, many Cubans are wondering how long their extraordinary privilege can survive under restored diplomacy, and are thinking about speeding up plans to get to the U.S.

"I don't know if they will take it away," Angela Moreno, a 67-year-old retiree said of the preferential treatment, "but if they do, Cubans who go to the United States will have to do it like people from other countries."

Cubans arriving at a U.S. border or airport automatically receive permission to stay in the United States under policies stemming from the 1966 act, which allows them to apply for permanent residency after a year, almost always successfully.

Seeking to discourage mass migrations by sea, the United States developed its so-called "wet foot, dry foot policy," in which migrants who make it to the U.S. are automatically allowed to stay. Those stopped at sea are either sent back to their homeland or to a third country if they can prove a credible fear of persecution.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, said he welcomed President Barack Obama's move to create a "modern relationship" with Cuba, but Congress is not likely to alter the Cuban Adjustment Act or the U.S. trade embargo, until there have been significant steps by the Castro government.

"Major changes to a law like that or to the embargo are not going to happen unless people like me support those changes, and I'm not going to support them unless I see some movement toward freedom" Nelson said.



Alina Hartounian / AP

Patrons wait in line to see "The Interview" at the Valley Art theater in Tempe, Ariz., on Thursday. The film's Christmas Day release was canceled by Sony after threats of violence by hackers linked to North Korea, but the release was reinstated in some independent theaters and through a variety of digital platforms.

Capacity crowds pack screenings of 'The Interview'

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Critics and early viewers agree that "The Interview" is less than a masterpiece. But thanks to threats from hackers that nearly derailed its release, it has become an event.

Hundreds of theaters Thursday, from The Edge 8 in Greenville, Alabama, to Michael Moore's Bijou by the Bay in Traverse City, Michigan, made special holiday arrangements for the Seth Rogen-James Franco comedy depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Sony Pictures had initially called off the release after major theater chains dropped the movie that was to have opened on as many as 3,000 screens.

But with President Obama among others criticizing the decision, Sony officials changed their minds. "The Interview" became available on a variety of digital platforms Wednesday afternoon, including Google Play, YouTube Movies, Microsoft's Xbox Video and a separate Sony website.

Meanwhile, Sony and independent theaters agreed

to release it in over 300 venues on Christmas.

"We are taking a stand for freedom," said theater manager Lee Peterson of the Cinema Village East in Manhattan, where most of Thursday's seven screenings had sold out by early afternoon. "We want to show the world that Americans will not be told what we can or cannot watch. Personally, I am not afraid."

At Atlanta's Plaza Theater, a sell-out crowd Thursday hailed the film's release, washing down popcorn with beer and cocktails and uniting for a boisterous sing-along of "God Bless America" before the opening credits.

"This is way more fun than it would have been," said Jim Kelley of Atlanta, who waited outside with his daughter, Shannon. The elder Kelley added, with mocking sarcasm, "This is almost dangerous, like we're living life on the edge."

Some venues showing "The Interview" were more likely to feature documentaries about North Korea than a low-brow comedy about it. At the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe, New Mexico, owned by "Game of

Thrones" author George RR Martin, the schedule also includes the Spanish art-house release "Flamenco," the locally made "The Twilight Angel" and an Italian film festival. The Film Society of Lincoln Center, which begins screening "The Interview" on Friday, will soon be hosting a tribute to "Force Majeure" director Ruben Ostlund of Sweden and a documentary about the late Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer.

The back story of "The Interview" has itself played out like a Hollywood satire, in which a cartoonish farce distracts from some of the holiday season's most prestigious films: "Selma," the drama about the 1965 civil rights march; Angelina Jolie's adaptation of the best-selling World War II story "Unbroken"; and the all-star, big-screen version of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods."

Security was light at many theaters, with the occasional police officer on hand. The possibility of violence was taken more seriously by the movie industry than by government officials. Last week, the Department of Homeland Security released a

statement saying that there were no credible threats.

Meanwhile, Darrell Foxworth, a special agent for the FBI in San Diego, said Wednesday the agency was sharing information with independent movie theater owners showing "The Interview" out of "an abundance of caution" and to educate them about cyber threats and what help the FBI can offer.

Kim Song, a North Korean diplomat to the United Nations, condemned the release Wednesday, calling the movie an "unpardonable mockery of our sovereignty and dignity of our supreme leader." But Kim said North Korea will likely limit its response to condemnation, with no "physical reaction."

Decisions to show the movie through the Internet could open up companies to hacking. Xbox and PlayStation's online gaming services were down Thursday afternoon but the cause was unclear.

Meanwhile, YouTube and other Google products were not having any disruptions. A Microsoft spokesman confirmed the Xbox outage but declined further comment. Sony PlayStation rep-

resentatives did not immediately respond to inquiries.

In Little Rock, members of an Arkansas family who say they otherwise would have never seen "The Interview" were among the first patrons at the Riverdale 10 theater.

Kay Trice and her husband drove an hour from Stuttgart, Arkansas, to see the movie with their daughter and appreciated "the freedom to see it."

"It should be shown in this country and somebody in North Korea should not have the right to scare us out of seeing this," Trice said.

A few dozen people lined up early outside Tempe, Arizona's Valley Art theater, where tickets for all five showings on Thursday had sold out. "There are a lot of people going crazy over (the controversy). It's bigger than the movie," said Omar Khieel, 20.

At the Cinema Village theater in Manhattan, the 10 a.m. screening was near capacity. Derek Karpel, a 34-year-old attorney, said that "as many people as possible should go see it. In fact, the government should subsidize tickets to make that possible."

Nevada goats help eat, recycle Christmas trees

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Goats are known to eat just about anything, but it didn't dawn on Vince Thomas until recently that the menu might include Christmas trees.

"They'll eat the pine needles and leave the skeleton of the tree," said Thomas, a longtime volunteer firefighter who has come up with a new use for his family-owned goat herding business, "Goat Grazers."

"It basically looks like Charlie Brown's Christmas with a scrawny tree that has nothing but the branches," he told the Reno Gazette-Journal (<http://tinyurl.com/kctx67s>).

Thomas is launching a new program with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District on Friday to use his 40 goats to help recycle Christmas trees.

He says he got tired of watching people discard the trees in landfills or dump them on public property, where they became a fire danger.

"It was amazing to me to see how many Christmas trees people would just toss out there," he said.

Thomas said his goats have been used in the past to help graze in areas with fire-prone weeds along the Sier-



Marcella Corona / Reno Gazette-Journal

Several goats munch on a pine tree in Reno on Tuesday. They are owned by Vince Thomas, founder of Goat Grazers, who along with his 40 goats is teaming up with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to help recycle Christmas trees and keep them out of landfills.

ra's eastern front.

"We thought, 'What a great way to get rid of the weeds,'" he said. "We had the idea of doing just that with the recycling program and we thought about the trees."

"And the goats are great employees, they love their job and they don't complain."

Thomas said he noticed not long ago that no weeds

were growing at his daughter's home in Spanish Springs northeast of Reno where she raises rabbits, pigs and goats.

"It was my daughter's goats. They ate every single weed in our yard," he said. He became curious and tossed a piece of pine tree to the goats, and they devoured it — pine needles and all.

"I did a lot of research on that, and it's OK for the

goats," Thomas said. "With cattle and some of the other animals, it can cause miscarriages. But for goats, it's a natural dewormer, and pine is very high in vitamin C, so it's healthy for them."

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful is among a number of groups in the area that recycle trees and are glad to have the help from the goats.

"A lot of people dump it

out on the desert and that's really a problem because people think it's a natural thing and it will decompose," said J Merriman, communications manager for the group that has been chopping recycled trees into mulch for 24 years. "But because we're out in the desert, they don't decompose, it will just get drier and drier and it really becomes a serious fire hazard."

‘Unbroken’ is beautiful, but impersonal

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

“Unbroken” is a story about Louis Zamperini that seems to have little interest in Louis Zamperini. The film painstakingly details his harrowing wartime experience and every brutal assault against his person. But don’t expect to walk away with a deep understanding of the Olympic athlete who survived not only 47 days in a raft in the middle of the Pacific but also two years as a POW in a Japanese detention camp. “Unbroken” floats on the surface.

And it’s fine. “Unbroken” isn’t a bad movie; it’s just safe to a fault.

Director Angelina Jolie has made a beautiful film based on Laura Hillenbrand’s best-selling book. Her respect for Zamperini’s story is evident from the start. By the end, though, the gaze turns reverential and distant as his experiences become more foreign and obscured.

“Unbroken” kicks off with a bang. A gorgeous air battle places the audience in the middle of World War II, not caring to introduce you to the boys in the B-24 bomber. In fact, Jack O’Connell is such a newcomer and looks so different in this film with his distractingly jet black hair



Universal Pictures photo

Jack O’Connell portrays Olympian and war hero Louis “Louie” Zamperini in a scene from “Unbroken.”

that the first few minutes are a little disorienting as you try to figure out just who is the star of the movie. That’s a strange handicap when you cast an unknown.

From there, the film fades in and out of flashbacks to Zamperini’s Torrance, Calif., childhood and his unlikely ascent to athletic greatness. There, in “Godfather” sepia, we see a very young Zamperini smoking, drinking, looking up girls’ skirts and not paying attention at church. But his brother pushes him to focus, and soon enough, his family realizes they’ve

got a star on their hands.

Zamperini, before enlisting in the Air Force to fight in the war, was a track star who ran in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Though fairly straightforward, his racing scenes are among the most exciting of the movie. He’s a guy who saves his best for the final moments. It’s immediate and thrilling.

The wartime “present,” however, has the feel of a lengthy montage, especially when Zamperini and his fellow mates are stranded after their plane crashes in the Pacific. He and two crewmates survived on a

raft at sea for 47 days, only to be captured by the Japanese and put into a brutal prisoner-of-war camp.

Early on in the first ordeal, we get a glimpse of Zamperini’s selfless leadership as he tries to calm a panicked peer and tend to a wounded other, but it’s fleeting.

Then it becomes a series of moments – flashes of misery on a boat as we peek in on the men in various stages of decay. It strips the experience of any arc or thrill. Jolie even plops us down in the middle of a violent storm. This should be electrifying to

watch and experience along with Zamperini. Instead, she shows him bobbing up and down in the black waves, making a plea with God to get him out alive. For such a high stakes scene, it’s oddly lifeless.

There’s also a missed opportunity for an emotional gut punch when Zamperini is separated from his friend. It seems like Jolie was possibly aiming for subtlety here. Instead, we just feel robbed.

When he gets to the POW camp, we’re introduced to a sadistic prison guard (played by Japanese

rock star Miyavi) whose sole purpose seems to be to beat Zamperini at every possible moment. But again, without any inquiry into what inspired Zamperini to endure, the endless brutality falls flat.

O’Connell’s performance is strong and steadfast with moments of greatness and deep vulnerability, but it fails to inspire an emotional response from the audience.

Jolie hasn’t done a disservice to Zamperini’s life, but it’s hard to know what she was trying to tell. It’s Zamperini’s story in fact and circumstance, but somehow, he feels like an enigma.



The Weinstein Company photo

Amy Adams appears in a scene from “Big Eyes,” directed by Tim Burton.

Tim Burton returns to form with true story of ‘Big Eyes’

What a yearning for the past we see in the work of Tim Burton. When he focuses on the future, he creates a movie like his undistinguished “Planet of the Apes” remake. Turn the clock back, however, and his homesick love for antique bubble gum playing cards, sci-fi pulp novels and B-movie horrors hits nostalgia overdrive.

After “Ed Wood,” his delightful 1950s biography of America’s most dreadful filmmaker, Burton once again offers a true story that scratches the kitsch. “Big Eyes,” set in the early ’60s, once again salutes ham-and-cheese creativity. It tells the far-fetched but factual story of the past century’s worst artistic team.

Meet Margaret Keane (hushed Amy Adams), a prolific, capable but tasteless creator of kids’ portraits, and her husband, Walter (vigorous Christoph Waltz), who depicts trite street scenes. We encounter young Margaret at the mo-

ment of her first divorce, zipping from her Southern home to a new, if uncertain, life in California with her beloved daughter. No wonder she was fascinated by melancholy depictions of frowning, tearful tots.

She and Walter cross paths in San Francisco, where her painter-in-the-park weekend transactions are failing until he offers to help. A self-confident wheeler-dealer, he begins as a charmer. For a long time following the couple’s Hawaiian wedding, they seem to be a blissful union. He’s intensely encouraging of Margaret, insisting “You undervalue yourself.” His grin is so warm that his less-than-heartfelt gaze doesn’t immediately matter, a quirk that the scene-stealing Waltz has used in film after film to great effect.

It’s hard to say who paints worse, but it’s clear who’s fastest. She cranks out countless ragamuffins with pupils the size of tennis balls. Unfortunately, shy Margaret is too introverted to present her work to West Coast sophisticates. Walter, a successful real estate vendor, convinces her he should peddle the pictures as his own.

‘Big Eyes’

★ ★ ★ ½

Starring: Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz, Terence Stamp, Danny Huston, Jason Schwartzman, Krysten Ritter

Directed by: Tim Burton

Written by: Larry Karaszewski, Scott Alexander

Running time: 104 minutes

Rated: PG-13

(for thematic elements and brief strong language)

It becomes a rags-to-riches story, but slowly. Adams, in one of the best performances of her career, is a sensitive wonder, making her character utterly gentle, a bit eccentric and slightly melancholy. Soon Walter is piloting Margaret’s designs of weepy waifs to widespread popularity on canvas, posters and printed tableware. He’s invited on TV to discuss “his” art, generating a Warhol-size fan base while challenging appalled critics.

Eventually he is as domineering as the snobs he opposed, and Margaret is looking for another marriage escape plan. Cue bick-

ering, creative clashes and an infamous lawsuit for art fraud, relationship topics that appeal hugely to the ever-gloomy Burton.

The script, by the “Ed Wood” team of Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, is less than groundbreaking. It delivers the facts of the matter clearly but this time their anguished artist tale is hilarity-free. Thankfully, there’s a sweet note of humanism in the story even as it pulls the couple toward estrangement. It’s a smiler start to finish, not a howler.

Burton’s tone is agreeably low-key and humane, presenting the real-life characters as goofy without insulting them. Even the look of the film, photographed by Bruno Delbonnel, is lighter and brighter than Burton’s typical dark fantasies. Somehow not a single actor is sporting an overblown, unrealistic hairpiece, though the little Keane kids look something like the boggled invaders in his “Mars Attacks!”

“Big Eyes” isn’t the peak of Burton’s filmography, but after his recent stumbles, it’s neither sleepy nor hollow.

Don’t bet on this oddly lifeless ‘Gambler’ remake

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**
AP National Writer

‘The Gambler’

★ ★

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Brie Larson, Jessica Lange, Michael K. Williams, John Goodman

Directed by: Rupert Wyatt

Written by: William Monahan

Running time: 112 minutes

Rated: R

(for language throughout, and for some sexuality/nudity)

“If you’re not a genius, don’t bother,” the English professor played by Mark Wahlberg in “The Gambler” blithely tells his students. That should be one clue that you’re not gonna like this guy.

But there’s a bigger problem with that line, because it inadvertently makes us think: If you’re not doing a genius remake of an old movie, why bother? Director Rupert Wyatt’s new version of the 1974 drama that starred James Caan as a self-destructive gambler lacks the bite and heft of the first. It also largely wastes an excellent cast.

At the center is Wahlberg, a talented and appealing actor who is either miscast or misguided here. As Jim Bennett, a professor with a dangerous addiction to gambling, he’s cool, slick, handsome – and that’s pretty much it. We never once understand the three most important things about him: why he’s drawn to teaching, why he’s drawn to gambling, and why he’s so pitifully prone to self-destruction.

Moreover, we don’t understand why people keep giving this infuriating character another chance – like his mother (an excellent Jessica Lange), a woman whose pursed lips, icy veneer and dark glasses hide a heart than still cares for this wayward son.

Or like Amy (Brie Larson), the thoughtful student in Jim’s class, who watches him leap through the lecture hall like a swaggering talk show host, telling students they’ll never amount to anything – ex-

cept her. Amy, he says, is the only one with enough talent to write. Somehow she accepts this claptrap and decides Jim’s a catch.

We first meet Jim as his grandfather, a wealthy banking magnate, is on his deathbed. The old man informs Jim he won’t be leaving him a dime. He’s on his own.

Next thing we see, Jim’s at a high-end gambling den in a mansion overlooking the Pacific where Amy works as a waitress. It’s clear that Jim doesn’t know when to stop. At blackjack, he’ll win, and win again, and then bet it all – until he loses.

As Amy says: “You’re one of those guys who started out with no problems at all, and now you have all of them.”

Somehow, Jim will have to figure out how to save himself, and it’ll be more complicated than borrowing from Peter to play Paul. The ending – a departure from the original, again – is satisfyingly creative and suspenseful.

By then, though, it feels too late. We didn’t really care enough about Jim to be invested in his ultimate fate. They sorta lost us at hello.



Paramount Pictures photo

Mark Wahlberg, left, and Brie Larson star in “The Gambler.”



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

Happy New Year!

We Love a Parade!

Do you love a parade? Communities celebrate many different holidays with parades: July Fourth, Veterans Day, Memorial Day and others.

One parade that millions of people watch all over the world is the Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

This week, The Mini Page learns all about the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

Listen here to a 1931 recording of "I Love a Parade": tinyurl.com/q8fcyn5

Showcasing California

By the late 1800s, many Americans had moved from the East Coast and Midwest to Southern California. They wanted to share their warm, sunny "paradise" with everyone.

In 1890, members of the Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena organized a festival that included foot races, polo games, tug of war and other competitions. They called it the Tournament of Roses because of the fresh flowers that grew there, even during the winter.

To start the festivities, a parade was planned in which entrants decorated their horse-drawn carriages with thousands of flowers.



The 1891 Rose Parade featured the first musical entry, the Monrovia Town Band.

'Never on Sunday'

In 1893, New Year's Day fell on a Sunday. Parade organizers did not want their event to conflict with church services, so it was decided that whenever Jan. 1 was on a Sunday, the parade would be moved to Jan. 2.

The story goes that organizers of the tournament have a deal with God: "We'll never hold the parade on a Sunday, and he'll never let it rain on the Rose Parade."

However, it has rained 10 times during the 125 years of the Rose Parade.

Themes through history

In 1918, organizers of the parade announced the first theme: Patriotism. Floats and other parade entrants designed their displays around this idea.

The theme for the 2015 parade is Inspiring Stories.

Which world events do you think inspired the following themes?

1919 — Victory Tournament
1946 — Victory, Unity and Peace
1976 — America, Let's Celebrate!
2000 — Visions of the Future



Mini Spy

Mini Spy is in the parade! See if you can find:

☐ bird	☐ pea pod	☐ cheese wedge	☐ lips
☐ letter T	☐ heart	☐ number 3	☐ owl
☐ letter A	☐ squirrel	☐ word MINI	☐ kite
☐ carrot	☐ number 7	☐ whale	☐ key





Rookie Cookie's Recipe

Molten Lava Meatballs

These meatballs are good with pasta or make a great sandwich!

You'll need:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 4 crackers (any kind), finely crushed
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup spaghetti sauce
- 1/3 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- additional spaghetti sauce as desired

What to do:

1. Combine ground beef, cracker crumbs, Italian seasoning, parmesan cheese and spaghetti sauce in a bowl.
2. Shape into 12 equal meatballs (approximately 2 tablespoons of mixture each).
3. Spray a shallow cooking pan with cooking spray and place meatballs 2 inches apart.
4. Press a clean finger into center of each meatball and place 1 teaspoon of mozzarella cheese deep in the hole.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until meatballs are fully cooked.
6. Serve with additional spaghetti sauce on top of pasta noodles or in a hoagie roll as a sandwich. Makes 12 meatballs.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

Meet Kira Willey



Kira Willey is a singer and songwriter whose latest album is "How to Be a Cloud: Yoga Songs for Kids Vol. 3." She has designed a yoga program for kids. Her CD contains songs as well as tracks with Kira giving yoga instructions. A yoga booklet is included.

Kira grew up in Massachusetts and Connecticut. She began taking violin lessons when she was 5. She played in school orchestras and sang in the chorus all through high school. After earning her college degree in psychology, she learned to play the guitar, mandolin and ukulele.

Kira donates part of the profits of her CDs to KidsPeace, which helps kids in trouble. She also volunteers at yoga events at elementary schools and libraries.

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick



Samaje Perine

Oklahoma Sooners freshman running back Samaje Perine (sa-MAH-jay PEA-ryne) stood on the sidelines early in the fourth quarter of his team's Nov. 21 game against the Kansas Jayhawks. He'd already had a busy day, rushing 32 times for 378 yards and five touchdowns.

When Sooners head coach Bob Stoops learned Samaje was just 30 yards shy of the Division I single-game rushing record, he had a decision to make: Pull his star out of the game, or go for the record. Stoops decided Samaje was too close not to try. Samaje ran the ball two more times, scampering 42 yards on the second carry to smash the record with 427 rushing yards.

Amazingly, the previous record had been set just one week before when Wisconsin Badgers running back Melvin Gordon rushed for 408 yards and four touchdowns against the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Gordon's effort had broken the 15-year-old record of 406 yards set by Texas Christian University running back LaDainian Tomlinson.

Height: 5-11
Age: 19
Hometown: Pflugerville, Texas

Parade Notes

A new era

In 1920, motor-driven floats replaced horse-drawn entries completely. Seven years later, coverage of the parade was broadcast nationally over radio. Within a few more years, people could watch film of the parade in movie theaters all across the country during the first several weeks of the year. This made the parade more widely popular.

In 1951, just as color television was being introduced, the parade was shown on a network broadcast.

Today, nearly 700,000 spectators gather along the parade route to watch in person. About 80 million will watch on television in about 115 countries around the world.

Modern floats are mostly built by professional companies and take much of the year to construct. Many use computers and animation to make their floats come alive as they travel along the parade route.

Competition

Three judges select winners for 24 different awards each year. All of the surface materials have to be natural, such as flowers, bark, seaweed, fruits or nuts.



Photo by Neil Gold

About 900 volunteers wearing white suits and red neckties work to make sure that the parade goes smoothly each year. They guard floats overnight, explain the details of floats to spectators after the parade, and ride white scooters alongside the floats, guiding them through the parade route. Look for the white-suiters as you watch the parade!

Grand Marshals

During most years of the parade's history, a grand marshal has been named as the honorary leader of the parade.

Sometimes a grand marshal is honored **posthumously** (PAHS-chuh-mus-lee), or after his or her death.

In 2015, the grand marshal will be Louis Zamperini. Although he died in July 2014 at age 97, Mr. Zamperini will be honored for his service in World War II, during which he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

Mr. Zamperini also was an Olympic distance runner. He competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany.



Grand Marshal
Louis Zamperini
1917-2014

Photo courtesy of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association

A Parade Scrapbook



The Hawaii All-State Marching Band was a colorful addition to the 2014 parade. Bands also participate in a three-day Bandfest before New Year's Day.

Photo courtesy of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association



The 2015 Rose Parade will feature 39 floats, 20 bands and 18 equestrian, or horse-riding, units.

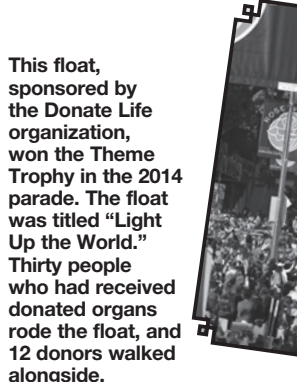
Can you see the beautiful flowers used to make the different colors of this elephant?



A member of the All American Cowgirl Chicks equestrian group does tricks for parade spectators.



The St. Augustine (Florida) High School Marching Band high-steps during the parade. Many high school and college bands spend all year raising money to travel to the Rose Parade in Pasadena. Bands must be invited to march in the parade.



This float, sponsored by the Donate Life organization, won the Theme Trophy in the 2014 parade. The float was titled "Light Up the World." Thirty people who had received donated organs rode the float, and 12 donors walked alongside.



The Mini Page thanks the Tournament of Roses for help with this issue.

Look in your newspaper to find out when and where to watch the Rose Parade.

Next week, look for our 2015 Mini Page Kids Calendar!

The Mini Page Staff
Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist



Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Chris: Why was a turkey allowed to join the marching band?

Irene: Because it had a great pair of drumsticks!

Jane: What did the band leader tell the barber before he cut his hair?

Steve: "Take it from the top!"

Christine: What instrument did the skeleton play in the marching band?

Joe: The trombone!





Parade

Try 'n' Find

E J X A I N R O F I L A C B F
G H S R O T A T C E P S K S E
A N O T O U R N A M E N T S R S
I S I R T H E M E S O R Y E T
R T W H S P A R A D E N E W I
R A H E C E Q S D R A W A O V
A O M C N R S B A N D S R L A
C L A N I M A T I O N U A F L
Z F Y L S U O M U H T S O P J

Words that remind us of the Rose Parade are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ANIMATION, AWARDS, BANDS, CALIFORNIA, CARRIAGE, FESTIVAL, FLOATS, FLOWERS, HORSES, MARCHING, NEW, PARADE, PASADENA, POSTHUMOUSLY, ROSE, SPECTATORS, THEME, TOURNAMENT, YEAR.

Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- bit.ly/140UMu5
- bit.ly/140UXpp
- bit.ly/1tY4J5o (if you live in the Pasadena area)

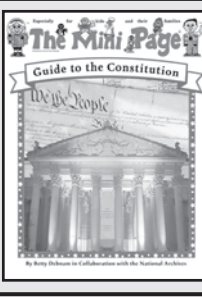
At the library:

- "Parade" by Donald Crews
- "Marching Band" by Frank Coachman

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A belated gift for hearing impaired theater-goers

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**
Tribune News Service (TNS)

This holiday season, the news media’s big eye has focused bigtime on whether Americans will be able to indulge their holiday movie-going tradition by enjoying just one film – a silly spoof about a CIA plot to kill North Korea’s dictator.

But this season I’m focusing on different reality-based truth for all who hope to enjoy entertainment in playhouses, concert halls and theaters.

Namely: How wonderful it is that millions of Americans with profound hearing loss can now go to at least some theaters and entertainment venues and hear, for the first time, the full surround sound that is happening on the screen or stage.

Finally – belatedly! – some movie theater chains are installing simple technology that has been working in Europe for more than three decades to make theaters accessible for persons with hearing loss problems.

One relatively inexpensive technology involves installing a wire known as an audio loop around the perimeters of theaters. Theater-goers with even profound hearing loss can simply flip a switch on many hearing aids and cochlear implants; it activates a “T-coil” (for telecoil)

that syncs their devices with sound that is carried magnetically on the theater’s loop.

But movie complexes with several small theaters discovered a hitch in the loop technology: Sometimes audio spills over from one theater into another. That requires installation modifications.

Last month, America’s theater chains and hearing loss advocacy associations reached an agreement in Washington that emphasizes a different approach: captioning devices. One new commercial technology involves special eyeglasses, made by Sony, with lenses that display built-in captioning.

It has taken far more than just a while to get America’s movie theater chains moving. And even today’s change wouldn’t have happened without decades of drudgework by under-sung and under-praised citizen/activists – quiet yet persistent crusaders such as Grace Morgan, of Melbourne Beach, Fla., who has coped with profound hearing loss all her adult life.

Like most citizen/activists, Grace never dreamed she would become so involved – let alone help enrich lives of people she’d never met. We want to note her contributions today because, at age 92, she is nearing the end of her battle with a long illness. Yet,

she has maintained her unassuming way of sharing her love and caring for those closest to her – a family circle I was honored to join when I married her eldest daughter.

Grace has also retained her keen interest in public affairs (and her sharp-eyed talent for critiquing even a favorite columnist’s work!). Yet I’m sure she never saw herself as one who merited becoming a topic in any column that dwells (probably too often) on deeds of dreary politicians.

But the public work of this very private woman merits out attention. For decades, she had maintained a full but private career, most importantly: keeping a household running for her three children while her husband, Army Capt. George C. Morgan, was overseas during and after World War II.

Fast forward to the 1980s: While taking a sign language course at Washington’s Gallaudet University, she met Rocky Stone, the former CIA intelligence specialist who had just formed the Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (now named Hearing Loss Association of America). Stone convinced Grace to organize a SHHH chapter in Florida’s Brevard County.

She did that and then worked

to assure it accomplished all it could. She pioneered efforts to install audio loops in theaters and educate citizens about hearing problems and solutions. She secured funding to install an audio loop in the Indian River Players Theater. “This is a real dream come true,” she told Florida Today newspaper in 1986.

Grace received the Melbourne Sertoma Club’s 1988 “Service to Mankind” award. A year later, Gov. Bob Martinez appointed her to the Florida Council for the Hearing Impaired.

Ever the public advocate, she has not lost her keen sense of outrage over the things government fails to do. Notably, she still fumes that Congress hasn’t required Medicare to pay for hearing aids to enable needy Americans to maintain productive lives. There too, Europeans are way ahead of us.

But mainly she maintains, even now, her fine sense of wonderment about what technology can accomplish. The other day, in her bedroom in Melbourne Beach, Grace recalled what it was like the first time she sat in a theater equipped with an audio loop.

“It was the most wonderful, unbelievable experience,” she said. “It opened up a whole new world for me.”

Martin Schram is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

Families paying a high price for misguided U.S. policy

By **DANA MILBANK**
The Washington Post

As Americans gather with their families around the holidays, we should pause to remember four who are not coming home for the holidays.

James Foley will not be with his family in New Hampshire. Steven Sotloff will not be going home to Florida. And Peter Kassig will not be at the table in Indiana. The three men – two journalists and an aid worker – were beheaded this year by the Islamic State terror group, which had taken them hostage in Syria. A fourth American, a female aid worker, remains held by Islamic State captors.

Those responsible for this suffering and death are the barbarians who seized these Americans – pure and simple. But it’s also undeniable that their hope of a homecoming was set back by a well-intentioned U.S. policy that doesn’t allow their loved ones to negotiate for their safe return.

Of the 23 known Islamic State hostages, the 15 who have been freed – four French, three Spaniards, two Danes, an Italian, a German, a Belgian, a Swede, a Swiss and a Peruvian – generally came from countries known to allow ransom. The six killed (a Russian and two Britons in addition to the Americans) came from countries that generally don’t. (One Brit is known to remain in captivity along with the American, whose family has requested that she not be identified.)

In theory, the no-ransom policy makes sense as part of an overall strategy that says no negotiations with terrorists. But in practice, American purity in this area is neither real (the United States often cuts deals with terrorists and their sponsors) nor productive.

James Foley’s mother, Diane, told ABC News after her son’s death that she had been threatened with prosecution by U.S. officials, including one on the White House’s National Security Council, if she tried to raise money to pay her son’s ransom. “I was surprised there was so little compassion,” she said. “We were told we could do nothing.”

The Obama administration, which attempted a military rescue of Foley and others, expects to complete this spring a review of its hostage policy and has sent letters to hostages’ families seeking their input. An NSC official said the review “does not include reconsideration of ransoms” but that the administration is seeking to do what it can “within the bounds of the law to assist families to bring their loved ones home.”

There’s no call for the United States to go as far as European countries, which officially deny paying ransom but which quietly have paid tens of millions of dollars to free hostages.

What the Obama administration could do, rather, is to drop any suggestion that families and would-be donors could be turned into criminals for trying to save their kin and fellow Americans. If the government isn’t willing to pursue hostage negotiations, it could at least help families and other private parties make diplomatic connections so they could give it a try.

The administration has argued that paying ransom and bargaining with terrorists would make Americans more vulnerable to hostage-taking. But the hard-line stance clearly hasn’t stopped terrorists from seizing Americans; it means only that these Americans are more likely to die. It’s also unpersuasive for the Obama administration to claim an absolute position against dealing with terrorists. The administration recently traded five high-value Taliban leaders for the release of captive U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl. In Iran, the Obama administration didn’t object when three American hikers and a Canadian Iranian correspondent for Newsweek were released after paying bail of as much as \$500,000.

Just last week, the administration agreed to release three imprisoned Cuban spies in a swap with Cuba for a U.S. intelligence agent and the “humanitarian” release of political prisoner Alan Gross. Around the same time, Sony Pictures Entertainment bowed to threats of violence made by North Korea, pulling its provocative film “The Interview” and surrendering a reported \$90 million (it has since opted for a “limited release”).

Sony’s buckling to terrorist threats dwarfs the modest hopes of the families of hostages to attempt to buy the freedom of their loved ones. Such efforts won’t always work, of course. But it would be humane to abandon a policy that compounds the suffering of hostages’ parents by punishing them for trying to help their children.

Dana Milbank is a Washington Post columnist.

ANOTHER OPINION

Another reason to distrust the stock market

The Justice Department is reviewing its options in response to a recent court ruling that overturned two insider-trading convictions and threatens others. Unfortunately, the options are limited, and the ruling – a setback in the fight against rigged markets – is likely to stand for a long time.

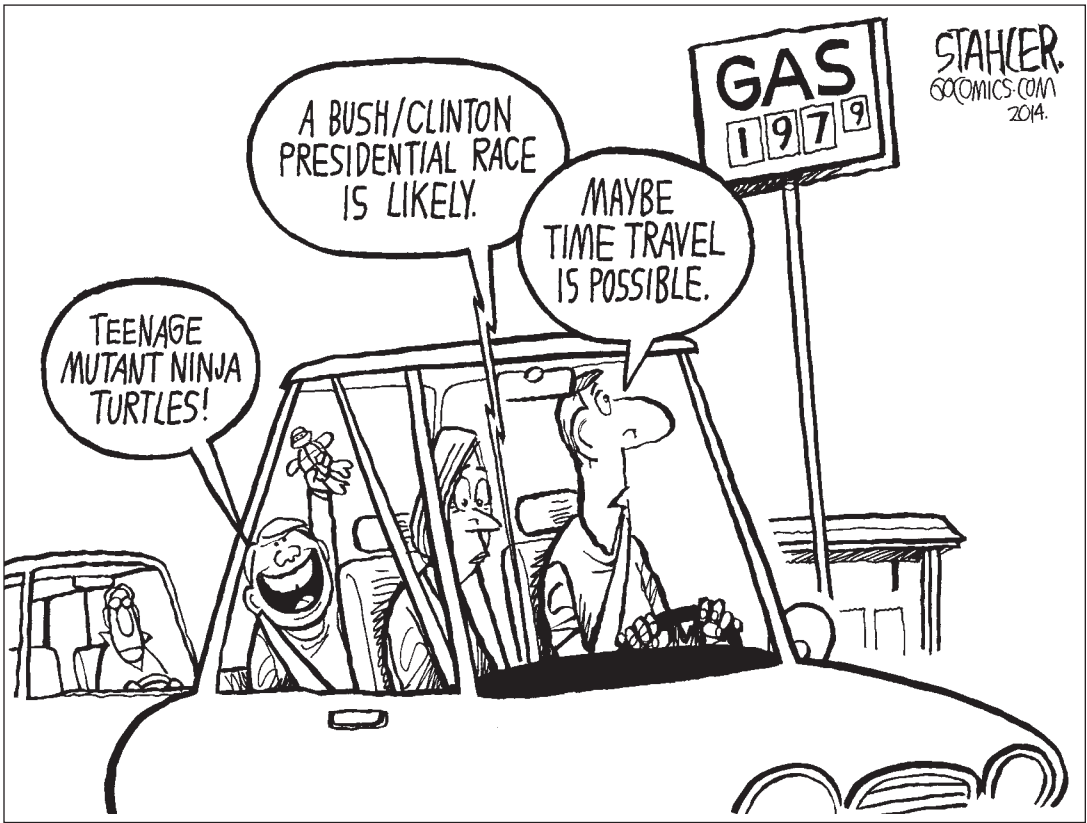
The case involved Todd Newman and Anthony Chiasson, hedge fund managers whose insider-trading convictions from 2012 were reversed this month based on a narrow reading of prevailing laws and rules. The judges, on the federal appeals court for the Second Circuit, said that trading on non-public information is illegal only if the direct recipient of the information provides or promises the tipper a personal benefit in exchange for the information. They said that Newman and Chiasson, who received the tips through intermediaries rather than directly from a corporate insider, were too distant from the original tipper to have known of a quid pro quo.

That finding alone has sparked debate about the correct interpretation of the law. But the judges didn’t stop there. They said that in most cases there would be no unlawful insider trading unless the tipper received money or some other tangible benefit for the information. That reasoning challenges a bedrock of insider-trading law that holds that spreading and using nonpublic information can be illegal even if it is provided free, say, to help a friend.

In effect, the ruling provides greater leeway to trade on inside information, while making it harder to prosecute insider trading.

The Justice Department should ask for a review of the decision by all of the court’s judges. An appeal to the Supreme Court is unlikely, and the complicated fact pattern of the case makes it a poor vehicle for such an appeal. Besides, Justice Scalia has suggested that overzealous prosecution of insider trading is a bigger problem than insider trading itself, a stance that bodes ill for well-policed markets. In the meantime, public mistrust of the stock market is warranted as are doubts about its integrity.

– *New York Times*



Thank-you rituals matter, so go write that note

By **GINA BARRECA**
The Hartford Courant (TNS)

If we were better at saying thank you, there wouldn’t be 16 aisles in every stationery store displaying cards in multiple typefaces geared toward a wide range of age groups and socioeconomic demographics inscribed with those two words.

If we were better at expressing thanks, we wouldn’t need a pre-packaged statement accompanied by glitter, a verse from the Bible (or Kahlil Gibran) or a character from “Peanuts” to do it for us.

If expressing gratitude were easy, we wouldn’t have to lock our offspring in their rooms for weeks at a time, sustaining them via flat foods placed on a tray pushed under the door, until they successfully completed their thoughtful thank-you notes.

If an honest and heartfelt illustration of our pleasure at receiving a gift were uncomplicated, there would be no stress.

The otherwise cheerful pair of newlyweds who disagreed about whether he had to do more than sign his name to the thank-you cards she was sending out for the wedding gifts would never have had, for example, the following conversation:

“You have to do more than sign your name. It’s not like autographing baseballs. You’re supposed to tell them how much their present meant to you.”

“I don’t even remember what it was. It’s nice that they brought something, but mostly I’m just glad they were here. And I told them that when I saw them.”

But they did have this conver-

sation, and although the bride married him because he was honest, she nevertheless wept a bit.

And then she learned to forge his handwriting.

If they stay together, it’s a win-win. But if they split? I suspect he’ll discover that everything they own is in her name, including the house, the cars and his shoes. His signature will be on every piece of paperwork, too.

But I digress.

The real issue is this: It’s important to learn how to be grateful appropriately. That’s why we torture our children into writing notes and learning how to offer gratitude both cheerfully and gracefully – because the opposite of gratitude looks suspiciously like greed, pride and hubris.

Ouch, right?

You thought it was simply laziness, torpor or the shrugging off of anachronistic habits that makes those notes hard to write, and even those conversations awkward to enter. (“Did you thank your brother for sending you that chain saw?” “Nah, he knows it’s what I wanted. It’s fine.”)

I believe there are larger and scarier shadows behind the absence of thanks: When gratitude goes missing, ingratitude rushes in to fill the void. Entitlement and insolence follow quickly and slam the door behind them.

It’s not pretty.

We’ve convinced ourselves that thank-yous are merely formulaic and ritualistic. They are; it’s true. But that’s exactly why we have to do them: rituals matter.

Rituals have mattered to every culture since we agreed to start peeing outside the cave. Everybody has to agree to perform the ritual or else risk living in a state of perpetual unpleasantness.

Yet it’s as if we’ve come to believe we can outsource our rituals – or take shortcuts with them. We reassure ourselves that a nod of the head, a three-letter text or a lack of complaint is a sufficient display of acknowledgment.

That’s not only misleading; it’s a fiction. Thank-yous matter.

Oddly enough, of the 657 books on gratitude now published every week, few offer help. That’s because we’re being encouraged to show gratitude to the universe at large (“I have the attitude of gratitude for rainbows and puppies”) but being let off the hook when it comes to addressing those actually in our lives.

“Thank you for listening to me when I’m down,” we should say. “Thanks for always making me welcome in your home.” Both “Thanks for helping me when I struggle” and “Thank you for helping me celebrate” are important.

“Thank you” (like “I love you” or “I’m sorry” – other short phrases appearing in many aisles of card stores) becomes easier to say the more often it’s said.

The best way to offer thanks is simply to begin: Pick up a pen, a phone or your feet off the floor and continue the conversation someone else started with a gift.

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut.



U.S. Army / AP
This undated file photo provided by the U.S. Army shows Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. The U.S. Army says it has prosecuted about 1,900 cases of desertion since 2002. However, tens of thousands of soldiers have fled the service.

Army data shows rarity of desertion prosecutions

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army has prosecuted about 1,900 cases of desertion since 2001, despite tens of thousands of soldiers fleeing the service in the face of deadly combat, long and multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and strains on military families.

The data reflects how rarely the military takes desertion cases to court. And it underscores the complexities of such cases as a top military commander reviews the investigation of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who left his Afghanistan post in 2009 and was captured and held by the Taliban for five years.

More than 20,000 soldiers have been dropped from the rolls as deserters since 2006, Army data show. Totals for earlier years weren't available, but likely include thousands more.

In trial cases over the last 13 years, about half the soldiers pleaded guilty to deserting their post. Another 78 were tried and convicted of desertion.

Desertion is relatively easy to prove, former Army lawyer Greg Rinckey said, but circumstances such as post-traumatic stress or family problems are also taken into account.

"A lot of deserters suffered from PTSD or other mental health issues, or they were on their second or third deployment," said Rinckey. Numbers spiked as soldiers began returning to the battlefield, sometimes for up to 15 month deployments.

Some disappearances involved divorce issues or sick children, he said. In other cases, soldiers deserted bases in the United States. Many are of these are handled without going to court martial, with soldiers administratively punished or sometimes medically discharged.

Soldiers who avoid deployment or leave posts in combat zones are more serious cases, particularly if the deserter is responsible for standing guard or protecting others in dangerous places.

"Those are looked at very harshly," said Rinckey,

now a partner with the Washington law firm Tully Rinckey, "because commanders have a unit of other people who are looking at that soldier and saying, 'I don't want to go either,' so obviously there has to be an example made."

Rinckey and other military officials say the Bergdahl case will be difficult. It's now in the hands of Gen. Mark Milley, head of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Even if Milley concludes Bergdahl deserted his post, he may consider mitigating circumstances while weighing whether to charge the soldier with desertion or being absent without leave (AWOL). He may also handle the matter administratively.

Milley has broad discretion, Army spokesman Wayne Hall said. Beyond court martial, possible actions include counseling, a reprimand, forfeiture of pay, reduction in rank or involuntary separation from the military.

Bergdahl could receive an honorable, general or other than honorable discharge. That decision can determine whether he gets as much as \$300,000 in back pay and other benefits, including continued health care.

Bergdahl deliberately walked away, an initial U.S. military investigation found in 2009 based on available evidence. Since his release, some who served with him have called him a deserter and said he should be held accountable for leaving his post. Others have said troops were put in danger, and even killed, as they searched for Bergdahl.

The maximum punishment for desertion during a time of war is death. That outcome is highly unlikely. Only one service member, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, was executed for desertion since the Civil War. Slovik, 24, was shot by a firing squad in January 1945. His execution, approved by then-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, was kept secret by the Army until nine years later.

Bergdahl was handed over to U.S. special forces in Afghanistan in May in an exchange for five top Taliban commanders who were imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

OBITUARIES

Larry Neil Dall

Larry Neil Dall, born April 3, 1937 in Broken Arrow, Okla., died Dec. 21, 2014 in Normal, Ill. He graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 1955 after wreaking havoc on the town and learning to milk a cow and throw a knife in his mom's barn. He served in the United States Navy for four years aboard the U.S.S. Kearsarge, where he was a radio-man and was once struck by lightning (which explains a lot).

He was 25 when he and a friend volunteered to go fishing for a church fish fry. Larry had some dynamite handy and thought it would be a quick way to get lots of fish for the church. One of the quarter sticks had a short fuse, and it exploded as he tried to throw it into the lake. After one of the more interesting ambulance rides and hospital stays in history, he lost his class ring, became left-handed, and took on the CB radio handle "One-Armed Bandit." He delighted in telling children that his hand had been bitten off by either a tiger or a shark. He could tell you exactly how many minutes he served in the Navy and the dimensions of everything he ever built, but he couldn't tie his own shoes. His favorite invention may have been Velcro.

He moved to Illinois, where he designed and built an A-frame home for his new family, east of Bloomington, that was his pride and joy. His three kids were all "born normal," but he wasn't sure what happened after that. He later moved to St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, and finally retired to Woodsboro, Texas.

He was a bona fide pack rat whose greatest loves in life were fishing, telling stories and jokes to anyone who would listen, making black raspberry jelly, fixing things in his shop, mowing the lawn, and keeping vehi-

cles running longer than should be legally allowed. He leaves behind three rugrats: Dawn (Glen), Adam (Kelly) and Kristi (Arturo); five grandchildren and one step-gr granddaughter: Hailie, Sydney, Aidan, Gabriel, Lance and Jillian; his loving wife, Carolyn, and her children: Carrie, Ben and Mike; 10 step-grandchildren: Chad, Shanna, Delania, Jamie, Kayla, Brianna, Zack, Zane, Dylan and Dalton; his "bruthie uglier" Jim, and his favorite sister-in-law Toby, and his stepdaughter, Holly.

He was preceded in death by his father, Laurits Dall, his mother, Esther Hougham, his son, Jason, his niece, Kelly (Danny) Lake, and his stepson, Tim.

The family wishes to thank the entire staff at the McLean County Nursing Home for providing exemplary care and friendship to Larry. Contributions in his name may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Celebration of his life to be held at McLean County Nursing Home, Saturday, Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. followed by interment Jan. 23, at Park Grove Cemetery in Broken Arrow, Okla. Condolences may be left for the family at kiblerbradyruestman.com.

Daniel James Winger

Daniel James Winger, 74, of St. Joseph passed away Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, at home following an 18-month battle with leukemia.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 27, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, with Hospice Chaplain Scott Labbe officiating. Friends may visit from 2 p.m. until the time of service at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Marie Yeager Cancer Center or Hospice. Those wishing to share a memory of Daniel may do so online at www.starks-menchinger.com.



DALL



WINGER



KEY

Daniel was born April 30, 1940, in Oil City, Pa., to James and Elizabeth (Pullease) Winger. He graduated from Oil City High School in 1958. Daniel married Patricia "Patty" (Coyne) on April 4, 1964, in Oil City. He was a design engineer at US Steel, Sumitec and Harbor Brake Beam until retiring. One of Daniel's favorite hobbies was golfing as often as possible. Other hobbies that he enjoyed were coaching baseball, wrestling in high school, working on his Internet-based golf equipment business, walking with his dog Emma, spending time with his grandchildren and attending their activities and other sporting events.

Daniel is survived by his wife, Patty; children: Stephen (Patricia) Winger of Valparaiso, David (Kari) Winger of Niles, Timothy of Benton Harbor, Julie (Piontek) of Baroda, and Lynn (JD) Kensing of Holland; grandchildren: Erin, Nathan, Denver, Morgan, Lindsey, Grayson and Mikaela; brothers: Frank "Bud" Winger of Oil City and Dave (Kay) Winger of Orlando, as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Daniel is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Phil Winger.

Paula Kozlik Key

Paula Kozlik Key, 48, of Bangor and formerly of South Haven, was unexpectedly called home to Heaven, Dec. 23, 2014. She was born Feb. 24, 1966, to Louis and Billie (Gargus) Kozlik in South Haven. Paula graduated from South Haven High School in 1984. She worked as the manager at the Bangor McDonald's restaurant for more than nine years. Paula loved spending time with her grand babies and having slumber parties with her cousin. Paula was a devoted mother and nana. Her

Death notices

Paula Kozlik Key, 48, of Bangor and formerly of South Haven, died Dec. 23, 2014. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

world revolved around her daughters and grandsons who could do no wrong in her eyes. She loved them more than words can express.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Louis Jr. and Billie Kozlik.

Paula is survived by her daughters: Brandy Key of South Haven and Ashley Key of Bangor; two grandsons: Jaden and Brenden; special cousin, Vickiy Kozlik Wall of South Haven; and aunts, uncles and other cousins also survive.

Paula was a simple, kind and loving person. She had a wonderful sense of humor with a contagious laugh. We loved her smiles.

Visitation will be from 2-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven. Funeral services will follow visitation at 3 p.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Jon Vandenburg officiating. Paula will be laid to rest at Monks Cemetery in Geneva Township. Contributions may be made in Paula's memory to South Haven's Hospice at Home. Kindly share your thoughts and memories on the families online guest book at www.FilbrandtFFH.com. The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home of South Haven.

Anthony (Tony) Fardello Jr.

Anthony (Tony) Fardello Jr. passed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014 at 12:37 a.m.

He leaves behind sisters: Rosemary, Nancy and Joanne, and a brother, Vince; brothers-in-law: Thelbert Lee and Doug Adams; sister-in-law Del Fardello, and many friends who loved him and will miss him tremendously.

Tony will be cremated, so there will be no viewing. The family will have a memorial service sometime in September 2015.

Can GOP shatter 'Obama coalition' in 2016?

By **BILL BARROW**
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Republicans crowded in 2004 that freshly re-elected President George W. Bush had established a "permanent governing majority" for the GOP. Eight years later, Democrats were touting the enduring power of the "Obama coalition" to keep their party in the White House.

But Democrats couldn't sustain that coalition for this year's midterm elections, leading to Republican gains in Congress, governorships and state legislatures nationwide.

"The notion of demographics as destiny is overblown," said Republican pollster and media strategist Wes Anderson. "Just like (Bush aide Karl) Rove was wrong with that 'permanent majority' talk, Democrats have to remember that the pendulum is always swinging."

So how will it swing in

2016? Is the path to 270 electoral votes so fixed that one side just can't win? Do Obama's unpopularity carry over into the next race for the White House? Or will an increasingly diverse electorate pick a Democrat for a third consecutive presidential election for the first time since Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman won five straight elections from 1932 to 1948?

Despite Democrats' midterm shellacking and talk of a "depressed" liberal base, many in the party still like their starting position for 2016. Ruy Teixeira, a Democratic demographer, points to a group of states worth 242 electoral votes that Democratic presidential nominee has won in every election since 1992. Hold them all, and the party is just 28 votes shy of the majority needed to win the White House next time.

Obama twice compiled at least 332 electoral votes

by adding wins in most every competitive state. He posted double-digit wins among women, huge margins among voters younger than 30 and historically high marks among blacks and Latinos.

As non-white voters continue to grow as a share of the electorate, a Democratic nominee that roughly holds Obama's 2012 level of support across all demographic groups would win the national popular vote by about 6 percentage points and coast in the Electoral College, Teixeira estimates.

"Could a Republican win? Sure," Teixeira said. "But they have to have a lot of different things happen."

What if the GOP is able to continue its gains among non-white voters? Obama, after all, lost ground in 2012 among most demographic measures, compared to his 2008 performance. Those slides helped make him the first president since

World War II to win re-election with a lower popular vote total than he got in his initial victory.

A GOP nominee such as the Spanish-speaking Jeb Bush, a proponent of comprehensive immigration reform, has the potential to capture significantly more than the 27 percent of the Latino vote that Mitt Romney claimed in 2012. Meanwhile, Republicans hope African-Americans make up a smaller share of the electorate with Obama no longer atop the ballot.

"We're not talking about winning those groups, but these elections are fought on the margins, so improvements here and there can make a difference," Anderson said.

Republicans acknowledge that demographic shifts make it more difficult than in years past for the GOP nominee to depend on white voters, who cast 87 percent of presidential ballots in 1992 and just 72 percent in 2012.

Russia offers support to North Korea amid Sony hack

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia on Thursday offered sympathy to North Korea amid the Sony hacking scandal, saying the movie that sparked the dispute was so scandalous that Pyongyang's anger was "quite understandable."

Washington failed to offer any proof to back its claims of Pyongyang's involvement in the hacking, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said at a briefing, adding that the U.S. threats of retaliation were "counterproductive."

The U.S. has blamed

Pyongyang for the recent cyberattack on Sony Pictures, which produced "The Interview," a comedy depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Pyongyang has denied a role in the hacking, but also praised it as a "righteous deed."

Sony initially decided not to release the film because of threats against U.S. cinemas, but released the movie online Wednesday.

Russia's ties with the communist North soured after the 1991 Soviet collapse, but have improved under President Vladimir Putin's watch. Moscow has taken part in

international efforts to help mediate the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, although its diplomatic efforts have had little visible effect.

Last week, the Kremlin said that it had invited Kim to Moscow in May to attend festivities marking the 70th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

Commenting on the Sony hack scandal, Lukashevich said that "the concept of the movie is so aggressive and scandalous, that the reaction of the North Korean side, and not just it, is quite understandable."

He went on to say that

Pyongyang had offered to conduct a joint investigation into the incident, adding that the proposal could help ease tensions and reflected a "sincere desire of the North Korean side to study the issue in detail."

"We perceive the U.S. threats to take revenge and calls on other nations to condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as absolutely counterproductive and dangerous, as they only would add tensions to the already difficult situation on the Korean Peninsula and could lead to further escalation of conflict," Lukashevich said.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Assistant Local News Editor Jim Dalgleish at 429-1293.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2014. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

Highlight in History:
On Dec. 26, 2004, more than 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a 100-foot-high tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean.

On this date:
In 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as “first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1914, actor Richard Widmark was born in Sunrise Township, Minnesota.

In 1933, Nissan Motor Co. was founded in Yokohama, Japan, as the Automobile Manufacturing Co.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division. Tennessee Williams’ play “The Glass Menagerie” was first performed at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

In 1966, Kwanzaa was first celebrated.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Mis-

souri, at age 88.

In 1974, comedian Jack Benny died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 1994, French commandos stormed a hijacked Air France jetliner on the ground in Marseille, killing four Algerian hijackers and freeing 170 hostages.

In 1996, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family’s home in Boulder, Colorado. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

In 2006, former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93.

Ten years ago: An unmanned Russian cargo ship docked at the international space station, ending a shortage that forced astronauts to ration supplies.

Five years ago: A 23-year-old Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who claimed to have ties to al-Qaida, was charged with trying to destroy a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day. Buddhist monks chanted on white-sanded beaches in Thailand and thousands prayed at mosques in Indonesia to mark the fifth anniversary of the Asian tsunami.

One year ago: Rounding out a tough and frustrating year, President Barack Obama signed a bipartisan budget deal easing spending cuts and a defense bill cracking down on sexual assault in the military. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe paid his respects at the Yasukuni Shrine honoring Japan’s war dead in a move that drew sharp rebukes from China and South Korea, as well as disapproval from the United States.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
					
Partly Cloudy 44°	Isolated Rain 37°	Scat'd Rain 44° / 32°	Partly Cloudy 34° / 27°	Partly Cloudy 32° / 23°	Cloudy 29° / 24°

Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 44°, humidity of 76%. South wind 15 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 30% chance of rain, overnight low of 37°. Saturday, skies will be cloudy with a 50% chance of rain.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:13 a.m.		
Sunset	5:20 p.m.		
Moonrise	11:19 a.m.		
Moonsset	11:08 p.m.		
			
First	Full	Last	New
12/28	1/4	1/13	1/20

Local Almanac

Benton Harbor yesterday	
Temperature	
High	40°
Low	36°
Normal High	32°
Normal Low	20°
Record High	66° in 1982
Record Low	-5° in 1983
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.40"
Normal month to date	2.23"
Year to date	26.51"
Normal year to date	36.56"

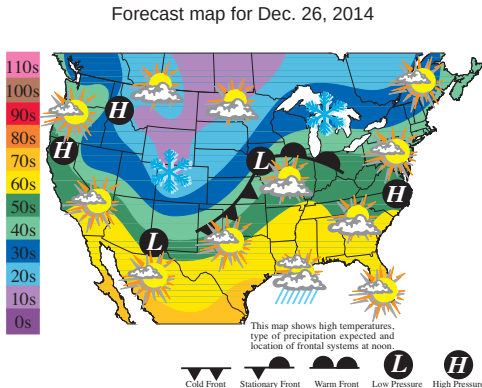
Air Quality

Yesterday	21
Main Offender	Particles
The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.	0-50 Good 51-100 Moderate 101-150 Sensitive 151-200 Unhealthy

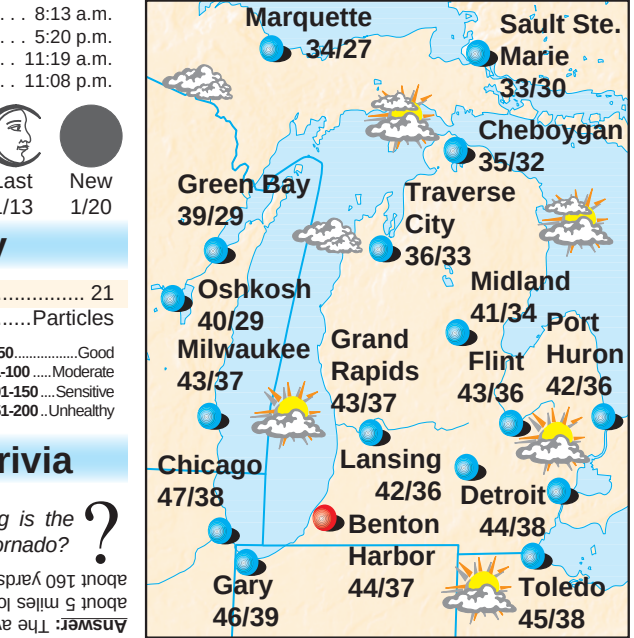
Weather Trivia

How wide and long is the average path of a tornado?
Answer: The average tornado path is about 5 miles long and has a width of about 160 yds.

National Weather Map



Regional Map



Lake Michigan

Today, southwest winds 15 to 25 kt. Waves 4 to 6 ft occasionally to 8 ft. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, southwest winds 15 to 20 kt. Slight chance of showers in the evening.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with isolated snow, highs in the mid-30s. Northwest wind 5 mph. Expect partly cloudy to cloudy skies Saturday with scattered snow, highs in the upper 20s.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy with highs in the low 40s. South southwest wind 14 mph. Skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy Saturday with scattered rain and snow, highs in the low 40s.

GIRL POWER

From page A1

graduated from St. John’s Catholic High School at 580 Columbus Avenue – the same building the girls academy is in. The school accepts girls in fourth through sixth grades and keeps them through eighth grade.

Quattrin said empowering girls during their middle school years is vital.

“I’ve always been interested in the problems of girls,” she said. “Being interested in math and science and being comfortable in class and having the self-esteem to be a good student and not be intimidated by classmates, especially boys, who put smart girls down oftentimes.”

The school, which is non-profit, currently has five students with one teacher. Quattrin said area businesses and people sponsor each girl with a \$7,000 donation. The faith-based school supplements that income with fundraisers and receives no public money.

“We have between five and 10 sponsorships every year,” she said

The school has openings for the second semester. For more information, call 925-9922 or visit www.bentonharborgirlsassociation.org.

While at Western Michigan University, Quattrin taught classes in the Center for Women’s Studies in Kalamazoo and at the university’s regional center in Benton Township.

She moved out of Benton Harbor when she got married and lost touch with what was going on in the city.

But while teaching a class called Gender Issues and Education at the regional center, she became aware of the problems many Benton Harbor women face.

I was hearing that these girls didn't have a chance. ... No one was there to help them. There were male predators who would get them pregnant.

PATRICIA QUATTRIN
Founder of Benton Harbor Girls Academy

“There were a number of (Benton Harbor) women who were coming back to get their degree,” she said. “They were single mothers. We’d talk about their situations.”

And she started to get worried.

“In discussions, I was hearing that these girls didn’t have a chance. They were falling behind in school,” she said. “No one was there to help them. There were male predators who would get them pregnant.”

Quattrin started doing some research and discovered that single-sex schools, especially for girls, were becoming popular as a way to help them overcome a lot of these obstacles.

She focused on middle school girls because that’s when studies show that girls begin to “silence” themselves and start to fall behind in school even if they were good students.

“In first, second and third grade girls are, by and large, very confident in themselves,” Quattrin said. “They’ll play with the boys and they’ll push the boys and they’ll climb and all of that stuff. But when they reach middle school, they begin to have serious self-esteem problems.”

After visiting several girls-only schools, she started talking to people who might be interested in starting one in Benton Harbor. They all thought it was a great idea but said they didn’t have the money or personnel to do it.

While driving back from her job at WMU one eve-

ning, she decided to drop the idea.

“Then this voice said to me, ‘But you can do this,’” she said. “Since there was nobody in the car ... I know it was the Lord. I said, ‘No I can’t. I don’t teach middle school. I don’t know how to start a school.’”

“But, the voice said – but you know people who did.”

So Quattrin talked with friends who started Brookview Montessori and Countryside Charter School. She formed the Benton Harbor Girls Association to research how to make a girls academy a reality. Quattrin said she receives no salary and is executive director of the association.

In 2006, she said they started offering after school and summer programs to girls in middle school so they could get a sense of what was needed.

“In 2010 we felt, we need to do this.”

Quattrin said they considered calling themselves a Christian school, but decided on faith-based, instead, in order to be inclusive.

Classroom teacher Pam Britt said she does a devotion with the girls every morning.

“As a Christian, we are to accept everyone,” Britt said. “You really can’t say you are a Christian and then pick and choose. I don’t think that’s what we’re called to do.

“The girls read the devotion and we talk about how it applies to their lives,” Britt said. “How they can

take the principles from the Bible and use that. All the things that middle school girls deal with. How they can use those principles and use them to settle any disputes that they have. We have a prayer that’s lead by the girls.”

When things come up throughout the day, she reminds them of the devotion.

“It’s nice to be able to take that truth and work it into any disputes that come up, because they always will with middle school girls,” she said.

School starts at 8 a.m. with the girls arriving for breakfast.

“They have the opportunity not only to have breakfast but to learn how to make breakfast,” Quattrin said.

The girls are in class from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with an hour off for lunch.

“They have their lunch and then they clean up,” Britt said. “They wash the dishes and do all of the cleaning after their lunch. That still gives them a half an hour for a break ... to make sure they get a chance to move around.”

From 3:30-6 p.m., they participate in extracurricular activities, such as swimming, quilting and tae kwon do.

“Right now, the girls are participating in (Water Street) Glassworks in downtown Benton Harbor,” said Irene Richmond, principal and academy mistress. “They get to make their own exhibits.”

Richmond said the girls were recently able to set up exhibits to sell their work.

Quattrin said they are working with the Citadel Dance and Music Center in Benton Harbor to also offer music and dance instruction to the girls.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

many people as it is losing to migration.”

That, he said, “will continue to limit Michigan’s population growth.”

A key to reversing the drag of out-migration is “having a well-trained workforce,” Gov. Rick Snyder said after the latest job figures came out Dec. 17.

“We know we can be a national leader in creating opportunities for students and adults to gain in-demand skills that can fill the jobs of today and tomorrow,” Snyder said.

MICHIGAN

From page A1

Asian and European rivals, and the Great Recession forced GM and Chrysler into bankruptcy.

But the federally supported financial reorganization allowed the automakers to shed retiree costs and return to competitiveness even as the overall market for cars and trucks expanded.

Michigan’s unemployment rate, while still above the national rate, has been

steadily falling this year. It dropped 0.4 points to a seasonally adjusted 6.7 percent in November, its lowest level since April 2006. Industrial employment in the state reached 574,000 last month, the highest since June 2008, according to the state Department of Technology, Management & Budget.

“Michigan’s labor market has been very solid in the latter part of 2014,” said Jason Palmer, director of the state Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

“Payroll jobs in the state have reached a six-year high, while the jobless rate has declined for four consecutive months.”

While the job numbers are positive, Michigan has yet to reach the point where more people move in than move out.

The estimated population growth for the 12 months ending in July “is less than what has been the historic natural increase — births minus deaths — for the state,” Guthrie said. “That means that Michigan is still not attracting as

GOP

From page A1

White House next time.

Obama twice compiled at least 332 electoral votes by adding wins in most every competitive state. He posted double-digit wins among women, huge margins among voters younger than 30 and historically high marks among blacks and Latinos.

As non-white voters continue to grow as a share of the electorate, a Democratic nominee that roughly holds Obama’s 2012 level of support across all demographic groups would win the national popular vote by about 6 percentage points and coast in the Electoral College, Teixeira estimates.

“Could a Republican win? Sure,” Teixeira said. “But they have to have a lot of different things happen.”

What if the GOP is able to continue its gains among non-white voters? Obama, after all, lost ground in 2012 among the most demographic measures, compared to his 2008 performance.

Those slides helped make him the first president since World War II to win re-election with a lower popular vote total than he got in his initial victory.

A GOP nominee such as the Spanish-speaking Jeb Bush, a proponent of comprehensive immigration reform, has the potential to capture significantly more than the 27 percent of the Latino vote that fellow Republican Mitt Romney claimed in 2012. Meanwhile, Republicans hope African-Americans make up a smaller share of the electorate with Obama no longer atop the ballot.

“We’re not talking about winning those groups, but these elections are fought on the margins, so improvements here and there can make a difference,” Anderson said.

Republicans acknowledge that demographic

shifts make it more difficult than in years past for the GOP nominee to depend on white voters, who cast 87 percent of presidential ballots in 1992 and just 72 percent in 2012.

At the same time, Democrats have watched white voters, particularly those without a college degree, move away from the party during Obama’s presidency — and not just in the conservative South. Obama lost this group by about 26 points in 2012, according to exit polls and other analyses. By this November, his Gallup approval rating among the group stood at 27 percent.

Extending that trend into 2016 could push Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa and New Hampshire into the GOP column. Whites also could tip Florida, Virginia and Colorado, although non-white voters in those states hold more influence than in the Midwest and northeast.

Those seven states, plus all won by Romney in 2012, would give the GOP a winning total of 295 electoral votes.

It should be noted that path to 270 requires any potential GOP president to win Florida, with its 29 electoral votes. And while it’s mathematically possible for a Republican to win without Ohio’s 18 electoral votes, no GOP nominee has ever done so, and Republican strategists widely acknowledge the state as essential.

Of course, further analysis of the raw numbers alone ignores the potential of the candidates themselves to shape the election — not to mention dramatic changes in the economy, national security events or other developments that fall outside the control of any candidate.

“Presidential elections don’t take place in a vacuum,” Anderson said. “It’s an adversarial system in which their side has a face and our side has a face, and everything flows from that.”

The pool table is sick and tired of being used for laundry.

To place a classified ad in The Herald-Palladium, please call 429-4484 or toll-free in Michigan at (800) 356-4262, or fax us at 429-8344. The office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

hpSPORTS

Wade, Heat beat James, Cavs
Page B2



Cutler knows changes may be coming for Bears

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Jay Cutler is ready for just about any scenario next week after the Chicago Bears' dismal season comes to an end. He understands changes could be coming. The question is how sweeping. "Coaches could leave," Cutler said Wednesday. "Players could leave. I could leave. That's part of it."

The future of everyone from general manager Phil Emery to coach March Trestman to his assistants and the quarterback with a seven-year contract is in question with the Bears (5-10) last in the NFC North and the season ending at Minnesota on Sunday.

It's quite a fall for a team that envisioned a playoff run. Instead, the Bears are missing the postseason for the seventh time in eight years. Cutler was at the center of several issues late in the season. First, offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer admitted he was a source behind an NFL Network report criticizing the quarterback's ability to identify when plays should be changed at the line of scrimmage. Kromer remained on the job, but Cutler got benched last week. Trestman decided a shake-up was necessary with Cutler leading the league in interceptions (18) and turnovers (24) even though the Bears were out of contention. So he started Jimmy Clausen against Detroit last week.

The result was familiar. Chicago dropped its fourth straight, and Clausen suffered a concussion near the end of the game. Cutler left Soldier Field thinking he would be watching from the sideline again this week. It was not until later in the day that Clausen began experiencing symptoms, the team said. It's not clear who would have started this week had he remained healthy, but either way, Cutler is back in the Bears' lineup. For how much longer? That remains to be seen. Cutler said he is "not the one to answer that question." He is sure of one thing. This season has been unlike any other for him.



Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler (6) puts his helmet on as quarterback Jimmy Clausen (8) drinks water during NFL football practice at Hallas Hall on Wednesday.

See BEARS, page B3



Detroit quarterback Matthew Stafford warms up as head coach Jim Caldwell watches him before Sunday's game.

Charles Rex Arbogast / AP

Stop the streak

Lions looking to put Lambeau Field woes behind them

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Every year, the Detroit Lions head up to Wisconsin to take on the Green Bay Packers. Every year, they come home with another loss. Detroit has lost every time it has traveled to play Green Bay since 1991, 24 straight games. Some have been close, like a 16-13 overtime loss in 2005. Some have been blowouts, like a 40-14 setback in 2002. But they've all been losses. When asked to reminisce about what he was doing they last time the Lions won in Green Bay, Matthew Stafford said, "I was probably still sucking my thumb."

Darryl Tapp said he was, "probably chilling somewhere, drinking a juice box."

The Lions, who have clinched a spot in the playoffs, will cap off the regular season Sunday in Green Bay with a chance to finally end the lengthy losing streak. "This is a whole different group from any other group that has been there," Tapp said. "Yeah, there's a stigma about (Lambeau Field). It's a hard place to play, but we take each task as it is. Winning this game is the only thing we're really worried about."

Jim Caldwell said there are certain negative streaks associated with every program. He remembers answering questions about the Colts' inability to win in the state of Florida. Those things don't concern him. "They're great narratives for (media and fans), but they don't mean a whole lot to us," Caldwell said. "What matters is getting ready for this game, focusing in on

this game and going in and doing your job. "We approach it like we do any other game. It's not the Super Bowl, so you have to look at it for what it is and go out and play well."

Although Caldwell preaches the one-game-at-a-time mentality, this one will mean a little more for him. Caldwell grew up in Beloit, Wisconsin and will have plenty of family and friends at the game. "Quite a few of them are asking for tickets, but just like when they came here for the game, I might have to lift up their shirt to make certain there's not a Packers shirt underneath," Caldwell said. "I do have some die-hard Packers fans in my family."

Not only can the Lions snap the skid with a win. They can also claim their first divisional title since 1993 and a first-round bye. "I'm excited to go on the road and get another win,"

Ndamukong Suh said. "I don't really care if it's in Lambeau or Chicago or Minnesota — we go each and every one of those places every year. We should be used to it by now. We have to deal with the elements as they come."

The Packers are one of just three teams in the NFL, along with New England and Denver, with a perfect home record this season. Green Bay has outscored opponents by an average of nearly 21 points at Lambeau Field, with all but two games decided by a touchdown or more. But Detroit, which can post its first winning record in road games since 2011 with a victory Sunday, and the players say they are up for the challenge. "Since I have been here, it's the best defense we have had, no question," Stafford said. "Any time you can go

See LIONS, page B3

49ers could look to trade Harbaugh

By DANIEL BROWN
San Jose Mercury News (TNS)

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — On a winter night in 2002, former Raiders executive Amy Trask returned home just in time to answer a ringing telephone. Al Davis was on the line. Trask was distracted after rushing through the front door and made out only snippets of the conversation. She heard the Raiders owner mention something about trading Jon Gruden. "I really don't think we should do this," Trask recalls saying. "You didn't hear me," Davis replied. "I just told you that I did it."

That stunning blockbuster marked the last time a hot coaching commodity was traded from one NFL team to another. Now it's Jim Harbaugh's turn. And the news could come just as swiftly. The 49ers are expected to part ways with their headstrong but highly successful coach soon after the Sunday's season finale against the Arizona Cardinals. The Raiders, who once traded away a charismatic, ambitious young

coach, are among the candidates to be on the receiving end this time - if Harbaugh chooses to stay in the NFL. How do you trade a coach? It's more complicated than trading a player, which explains why it has happened only a handful of times in the modern era, albeit involving some of the biggest names in coaching - Gruden, Bill Belichick, Bill Parcells and Dick Vermeil, to name a few. It's such a tricky process that the 49ers might have to fire Harbaugh if they can't swing a deal - or if the coach refuses to play along. (He would have to sign off on any deal and might not be in the mood to make things easy on his bosses). Harbaugh won like crazy, especially over his first three seasons when the team went 36-11-1 and reached three NFC title games and a Super Bowl. But along the way he has clashed with CEO Jed York and general manager Trent Baalke, who have apparently concluded that the Harbaugh-induced headaches now outweigh the wins.

See HARBAUGH, page B3

Former NBA star Marbury finding success in China

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING — After a roller-coaster NBA career, Stephon Marbury has found peace in basketball-crazed China. The two-time all-star is thriving on the court with the Beijing Ducks while becoming one with his adopted hometown away from basketball. He is so entrenched, he wants to one day coach China's national team. "I plan on living here for the rest of my life," the 37-year-old point guard and Brooklyn native said in an interview in the lobby of his plush apartment building in the heart of Beijing. "I think they respect me enough to be able to give me the opportunity."

China is a world away from Marbury's life in the U.S., where he endured a string of disappointing stints with several NBA teams. But he has found his groove in Beijing, leading the Ducks to two Chinese Basketball Association championships. He is an unrivaled fan favorite

and the team's on-court leader — the organization has even erected a statue of him in front of its arena. Marbury has capitalized on the opportunities China offers to foreign basketball players and other athletes capable of adjusting to the considerable cultural, linguistic and culinary challenges of life in the rising Asian power. Already dominant at the Olympics and Asian Games, the world's second largest economy is now undergoing a boom in professional sports stoked by foreign coaches and players. "I don't make nowhere near the money that I made when I was playing in the NBA," Marbury said, "but I'm way happier, so I mean, what is that to say?"

A big part of Marbury's Chinese appeal has been his willingness to embrace local culture and make himself accessible to fans. He rides the Beijing subway with a backpack and headphones, posing for photos with people he meets along the way.

See MARBURY, page B3

Joique Bell battling Achilles tendon injury

By DAVE BIRKETT
Detroit Free Press

Joique Bell, the Detroit Lions' leading rusher, showed up unexpectedly on the injury report Wednesday with an Achilles tendon injury, but offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi said it's not cause for concern heading into Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers. "I don't think (he's in danger of missing the game)," Lombardi said. "I think he'll be all right."

Bell leads the Lions with 800 yards rushing on 200 carries and has replaced Reggie Bush as the Lions' go-to back. He was benched for the first quarter of last week's win over the Chicago Bears for an unspecified violation of team rules, but still finished with 74 yards rushing and scored the game-winning touchdown. Lombardi said Bell, who was limited in practice Wednesday, did not suffer the injury in practice.



Chicago defensive end Jared Allen tackles Detroit running back Joique Bell (35) in the second half of Sunday's game.

Nam Y. Huh / AP

IN BRIEF

James, Curry lead NBA All-Star voting

NEW YORK (AP) — Cleveland's LeBron James and Stephen Curry of Golden State are the leading vote-getters in the first returns from NBA All-Star fan voting.

James had about 553,000 votes at the Eastern Conference frontcourt spot, where New York's Carmelo Anthony ranked second and Chicago's Pau Gasol was third in the results released Thursday. Washington's John Wall topped East guards, and No. 2 was James' former Miami teammate, Dwyane Wade.

Curry had more than 549,000 votes to lead second-place Kobe Bryant among West guards. New Orleans' Anthony Davis had the most votes in the West frontcourt, followed by the Clippers' Blake Griffin and Memphis center Marc Gasol.

Voting runs through Jan. 19, and starters for the Feb. 15 game in New York will be announced Jan. 22.

Cardinals to go back to Lindley at QB

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Arizona Cardinals went back to work Thursday amid media reports that coach Bruce Arians has changed his mind and decided to start Ryan Lindley at quarterback Sunday in the regular-season finale at San Francisco.

Arians does not talk to reporters Thursday and offensive coordinator Har-

old Goodwin was not forthcoming about the reported quarterback switch.

"I guess we'll see on Sunday," Goodwin said. Arians had said that rookie Logan Thomas would get his first NFL start against the 49ers but apparently didn't like what he saw in Wednesday's practice.

Lindley was working with the No. 1 unit in the brief portion of Thursday's practice that was open to reporters.

Azcentral.com, which includes The Arizona Republic, first reported the quarterback switch.

So. Carolina running back Davis off to NFL

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — South Carolina junior running back Mike Davis is leaving the Gamecocks for the NFL draft after the Independence Bowl.

Davis announced his intentions to give up his final season Thursday after the Gamecocks' practice for the Saturday game against Miami.

Davis ran for 1,183 yards last year. He has 927 yards so far this year and can join Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers as the only players in South Carolina history with multiple 1,000-yard seasons.

Davis said he wanted to finish his college career with a strong game against the Hurricanes. He said he enjoyed his time at South Carolina and will miss his teammates when he leaves school to train for the next spring's draft.

AIRWAVES

Television today

7:45 a.m. (NBCSports) English Premier League Soccer Chelsea FC vs West Ham United FC. (Live)

12:30 p.m. (NBCSports) English Premier League Soccer Arsenal FC vs Queens Park Rangers FC. (Live)

1:00 p.m. (ESPN) College Football Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl — Illinois vs. Louisiana Tech. (Live)

4:30 p.m. (ESPN) College Football Quick Lane Bowl — North Carolina vs. Rutgers. (Live)

7:30 p.m. (FoxDetroit) NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons. (Live)

8:00 p.m. (ESPN) College Football Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl — North Carolina State vs. Central Florida. (Live)

Saturday

12:00 p.m. (ESPN2) College Basketball Georgetown vs. Indiana. The high-scoring Indiana Hoosiers (10-2) head into a matchup with the Georgetown Hoyas (7-3). (Live)

(FS1) College Basketball Maine at Seton Hall. (Live)

1:00 p.m. (BigTen) College Basketball UNC-Wilmington at Minnesota. (Live)

(ESPN) College Football Military Bowl — Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech. (Live)

2:00 p.m. (2) (3) (22) College Football Hyundai Sun Bowl — Arizona State vs. Duke. (Live)

(ESPN2) College Basketball Kentucky at Louisville. (Live)

3:00 p.m. (BigTen) College Basketball Northern Kentucky at Northwestern. (Live)

3:30 p.m. (7) (13) (41) (57) College Football Duck Commander Independence Bowl — Miami vs. South Carolina. (Live)

4:00 p.m. (ESPN2) College Basketball Alabama-Birmingham at North Carolina. (Live)

4:30 p.m. (ESPN) College Football New Era Pinstripe Bowl — Boston College vs. Penn State. (Live)

5:00 p.m. (BigTen) College Basketball Oakland at Maryland. (Live)

5:15 p.m. (26) High School Basketball Beach Ball Classic: Knott County Central (KY) vs. N. Little Rock (AR). (Live)

CONTACT US

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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Wade leads Heat over Cavs in LeBron's return

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — LeBron James and Dwyane Wade wrapped each other in a pregame embrace, chatted and laughed at halftime, then hugged again after the final buzzer.

Just like old times. Only this time, just one got to enjoy a victory.

James' return to Miami as an opponent was a success — for the Heat, that is. Wade scored 24 of his 31 points in the first half, Luol Deng had 25 points and dogged James defensively all night, and the Heat beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 101-91 in a hyped Christmas matchup Thursday.

"We didn't have a bad breakup," Wade said. "We played against each other for seven years, man. The weirdness just wasn't there. It wasn't like we played against each other our whole career and the breakup happened. We played against each other for seven years, then with each other for a period of time, then he went back to the same situation and I'm in the same place."

Here's an example of how their relationship has endured: When James, who returned to Cleveland in the offseason after four seasons and two titles with the Heat, and the Cavaliers landed in South Florida on Wednesday, the four-time NBA MVP went to Wade's house for a night of Christmas Eve revelry.

James turns 30 on Tuesday. He had questions for the 32-year-old Wade about what changes at that age. That's what they talked about, no smack about how the Cavaliers are perceived to be a championship contender and how the Heat aren't even at the .500 mark.

"We only play this game for so long," said James, who got a warm ovation when a video of his Heat highlights played in the first quarter. "You've still got life afterwards. For us we're going to compete, we're going to go about our business and do what we need to do in our profession. You'll never let friendship come in between that."

It was fitting that they talked about life after 30 — because for the seventh time in their head-to-head meetings, both scored at least 30 points.

James had 30 points and eight assists for the Cavaliers, who got 25 from Kyrie Irving and 14 from Kevin Love.

"Couple of the best in this generation," Heat coach

Friendly rivals



Lynne Sladky / AP

Miami guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots in front of Cleveland forward LeBron James (23) during the first half of Thursday's game.

Erik Spoelstra said about the James vs. Wade nights. "Spectacular. I wish I could sit back and enjoy it like a fan, because it's just fantastic basketball. ... However long these two guys play, you'll get your money's worth."

Deng had eight points and eight assists for Miami. Chris Andersen scored 12 for the Heat, who led by as many as 17, trailed for a moment in the fourth quarter before gathering themselves and pulling away again.

Miami was again without Chris Bosh, still sidelined by a calf injury.

Wade was just 2 for 12 after halftime. Backcourt mate Mario Chalmers was 2 for 12 for the game.

It didn't matter. Miami found a way, even after a 17-point lead slipped away — just like a 23-point-er did against Philadelphia two nights earlier.

James had a go-ahead dunk in transition with 11:20 left. After that slam put Cleveland up 78-77, he got a technical foul for hanging on the rim a bit too long — so that lead lasted exactly zero seconds.

Wade made a free throw after the technical, tying the game. And up 90-87 late, the Heat finished on an 11-4 spurt.

"We're not that good right now," James said. "We've won some really good games, we've lost some games, but we're not that good right now."

BULLS 113, LAKERS 93

CHICAGO — Pau Gasol had 23 points and 13 rebounds against his former team and the Bulls beat Los Angeles with Lakers star Kobe Bryant resting his sore body.

Jimmy Butler added 21 points, and Derrick Rose had 20 points and six assists to help the Bulls win their season-high fifth straight.

With Bryant missing his second straight game, the Lakers were unable to pull off another upset. They stunned Golden State on Tuesday night but came up short against the Central division leaders.

The Bulls hung on after a 16-point second-quarter lead dwindled to two in the third. They pulled away in the fourth, sending the Lakers to their fourth loss in five games.

Gasol, a two-time champion in six-plus seasons with the Lakers, was 9 of 14 from the field in his first game against Los Angeles since joining the Bulls in the summer.

THUNDER 114, SPURS 106

SAN ANTONIO — Russell Westbrook scored 34 points, and Oklahoma City beat San Antonio in a rematch of last season's Western Conference Finals.

The Thunder earned their sixth straight regular-season victory over the defending NBA champions in the first meeting between the teams since San Antonio topped Oklahoma City in six games on the way to a fifth title.

The Thunder were without reign-

ing MVP Kevin Durant, and the Spurs were missing Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard, but there was still plenty of firepower.

Serge Ibaka had 21 points, including going 3 for 4 on 3-pointers for Oklahoma City (14-16). Steven Adams added 16 points and 15 rebounds to offset San Antonio center Tiago Splitter matching his season-high with 14 points.

Matt Bonner had 17 points to lead seven players in double figures for San Antonio (18-12), which has lost five of six. Tim Duncan had 15 points, six rebounds and five assists.

WIZARDS 102, KNICKS 91

NEW YORK — John Wall had 24 points and 11 assists, eluding the Knicks all day until getting knocked to the floor by a flagrant foul that sparked an altercation, and Washington beat New York.

Wall toyed with the Knicks for 3 1/2 quarters, highlighted by a spinning, 360-degree layup, before Quincy Acy knocked him down with a forearm shove with 5:31 to play. Wall got up and pushed Acy, who responded with a punch that appeared to hit Wall behind the neck.

Acy was ejected in the Christmas dust-up, and Wall received a technical foul.

Bradley Beal added 17 points for the Wizards, who had their top five of Wall, Beal, Paul Pierce, Nene and Marcin Gortat in the starting lineup for the first time this season.

Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points for the Knicks, who fell to 5-26 and have the most losses in the NBA. They have dropped six straight and 16 of 17.

New York fell to 22-28 in a league-high 50 Christmas appearances.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA

Adult fitness classes: YMCA adult fitness classes can be joined at any time. Aerobic classes include Step Cardio, Tabata Boot Camp, Interval Blast, Kickbox Cardio, Dance It Out and Zumba. Strength classes include Abs and More, Body Pump, Body Sculpting and Core Challenge. Mind/body classes include Barre Trilogy, Mind/Body Balance, Pilates, Tai Chi and Yoga. Older adult classes include Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga and Sit & Be Fit.

Aqua fitness classes: Three low intensity and five medium/high intensity programs are offered. Aqua fitness punch cards are available, with 10 punches for \$45.

Racquetball private lessons: Lessons with racquetball coordinator Clint Thompson are available. Cost is \$25 for two lessons.

Adult racquetball league: Three leagues are offered, based upon ability. Registration is open until Jan. 2. For more information, contact Clint Thompson at 428-9622. Cost is \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members.

Adult volleyball league: Three leagues are offered, based upon ability. Leagues run Jan. 13-April 14. Cost is \$17 for members, \$37 for non-members.

Lifeguard training: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 29-31. Cost is \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members. Call 428-9622 to register.

For more information on any YMCA programs, go to www.bhsjymca.org, stop by at 3665 Hollywood Road, or call 428-9622.

South Shore Health & Racquet Club

TRX classes: Tuesdays, 9 a.m., and Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. Punch cards are available, which include 10 classes for \$7 per class.

Pickleball: Open to the public Friday and Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. Cost is \$2 for members, \$6 for non-members or \$10 for non-member couple. A limited number of racquets are available to borrow.

Water fitness classes: Classes offered include Aqua Yoga, Maximum Liquid, Body Call Back and Senior Splash. Punch cards are available which include 10 classes at \$6 per class.

For more information or to register for any South Shore classes, call 429-2101.

Twin City Baseball and Softball Club

Holiday Baseball Clinic: Friday-Sunday at Twin City Baseball and Softball Club on M-139 in St. Joseph. Noon-2 p.m. for ages 7-9, 2-4 p.m. for ages 10-12. Each day includes one hour of hitting and one hour of fielding and throwing. Cost is \$75. For more information or to sign up, go to www.twincitybaseballsoftball.com, call 932-1000, or email twinci-

tybaseballsoftball@gmail.com.

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AUTO PARTS Benton Harbor

The local sports calendar appears twice weekly in The Herald-Palladium. Submit items for the local sports calendar to sports@TheHP.com or fax to 429-4392.

hp OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheH-P.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Snowy owl makes a splash at Lakeland offices

Employees at the Lakeland Healthcare offices on Meadowbrook Road in Benton Township were treated to an up-close view of a snowy owl last Friday.

In Southwest Michigan, about a half-dozen snowy owls have been seen this season, including the individual on the roof of the Lakeland Healthcare building.

“Most of the Lakeland associates working at the Meadowbrook office had never seen a snowy owl in a natural setting,” said David Burghart, who works at the building. “Nearly everyone in the building went out to see it with their cell phones in hand to get a picture. It was truly a beautiful sight.”

Reportedly, the owl has not been seen since last Friday, but other individuals are likely to be seen in Southwest Michigan before spring arrives. Look for them among large, open fields, on fence posts, and buildings.

The late fall and early winter of 2014 has seen quite a large irruption of the owls into North America.

Snowy owls spend their summers on the arctic tundra of Canada, Scandinavia, and along Russia’s extensive arctic coast and migrate southward into the U.S. and Europe during winter.

About a month ago, I featured in my column a male rose-ringed parakeet, which was showing up at



This snowy owl was seen atop the roof of the Lakeland office building on Meadowbrook Road in Benton Township last Friday.



This male rose-ringed parakeet is still being seen visiting bird feeders in the area surrounding Michigan Lutheran High School.

bird feeders near Michigan Lutheran High School in Royalton Township. Since then, many have asked about the fate of the bird.

I’m happy to report he is still around that neighborhood, having been photographed last Friday by

Sherry Reed. Although this parakeet’s natural range is the Indian subcontinent and central Africa, our bird is doing just fine hanging out at backyard feeders.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com.



The same snowy owl later flew onto an electrical pole near Lakeland Healthcare.



Sarett Nature Center

Sledding on Pear Hill: 1-3 p.m. Tuesday (weather permitting). Call 927-4832. Cost is \$1 per student age 7 and up.

Sarett Christmas bird count: 8 a.m. Wednesday. Join Sarett naturalists to bird the Sarett area for the National Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count. Call 927-4832 to register.

Celebrate Winter: 9:30 a.m. Jan. 2. Join Sarett naturalists for a look at winter and snow. Spend the morning learning about animals in winter, snow and winter survival. If there is enough snow, spend the afternoon on skis and snowshoes. Call 927-4832 to register. For kids 6 years and older. Cost is \$3 per student for 9:30 a.m. to noon, \$6 per student for 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cross country ski lessons: 2 p.m. Jan 3 (weather permitting). Adult lesson fee is \$10, rental fee is \$5. Call 927-4832 to register.

Woodshop courses: Make woodpecker pizzas and chickadee bells, 2-4 p.m. Jan. 4. Cost is \$5. Build a bird feeder, 1 p.m. Jan. 10. Cost is \$25. Registration and prepayment required. Call 927-4832 to register.

Gourmet Glide: 6 p.m. Jan. 10. Bring a dish to pass, table service and beverage. Sarett will provide soups and hot beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for children age 12 and under. Equipment rentals are available. Call 927-4832 to register.

Berrien County Sportsman’s Club

Carrying concealed weapon classes: Monthly classes are open to the public. Call Jason Grimm at 927-1793 for more information.

Coloma Rod & Gun Club

Concealed pistol license class: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. second Saturday of each month. Call Dan at 621-3370 for more information.

Breakfast: Breakfast is offered from 8 a.m.-noon, every Sunday.

Trap shooting: Thursdays 6:30-10 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, go online to www.colomarodandgunclub.com.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

Trap shooting: 6:30 p.m. Monday.

January carrying concealed weapon class: Jan. 15-17. Register Tuesday, Jan. 13. Cost is \$100, which includes two NRA certificates.

February carrying concealed weapon class: Feb. 12 and 15. Register Tuesday, Feb. 10. Cost is \$100, which includes two NRA certificates.

For more information, go online to www.watervlietrodandgunclub.org.

South Haven Rod & Gun Club

Carrying concealed weapon classes: Monthly classes are open to the public. Call Kristy Young at 231-499-7438 for more information.

Submit information for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com or fax 429-4392 by Wednesday.

Black Wolf Hunting Club aims to get more African-Americans out hunting

By BRENT FRAZEE
The Kansas City Star (TNS)

RIDGEWAY, Mo. — Moments like this are what Eric Morris had in mind when he founded the Black Wolf Hunting Club.

He set out with the goal of attracting African-Americans to hunting, an ambitious goal considering that federal surveys show that less than 5 percent of all participants are black.

But there he was, standing in a field with shotgun in hand, watching a black family that he recruited have the time of their lives.

“There’s a huge perception that blacks don’t hunt,” said Morris, who led a group of hunters at the Harding Gamebirds hunting preserve in northern Missouri. “I know that’s what the surveys say. But look at this.

“This is proof that blacks can have a great time hunting. We just have to give them the opportunity.”

Through the Black Wolf Hunting Club, Morris and others attempt to provide that opportunity. They organize trips to preserves, where participants pay to hunt pen-raised birds, and introduce blacks young and not-so-young to hunting.

For many, it’s a unique experience. They weren’t brought up with hunting, as they were with fishing, Morris said. Not feeling comfortable in rural settings, a lack of access, prejudice, the lack of role models - those are all excuses Morris has heard from fellow blacks as to why they don’t hunt.

Morris, who now lives in Platte City, didn’t face those barriers. He grew up in Alabama and taught himself

to hunt.

Now he helps others discover the excitement of the sport. And days like the one that took place last weekend remind him that he is on the right track.

Sommari Muwwakkil; his wife, Neshawn; and his four daughters Inkeria, 17, Eshante, 16, and Mikhia, 12, were all carrying shotguns. His youngest, Sommyia, 6, was tagging along.

This was one of the family’s first hunts, and judging by the smiles, it was a special day.

“I had a life-long desire to go hunting,” Muwwakkil said. “I was brought up in Kansas City, and I didn’t know where to get started.

“Some landowners don’t trust African-Americans, and they aren’t going to give you access. And some of the public areas get hit so hard that it’s tough for a

beginner to get out.

“So I really felt lost.” But that changed, he said, when he met Morris.

After Morris gave a talk to a youth group, Muwwakkil approached him and asked him questions about getting started in hunting. Morris invited Muwwakkil to participate in a hunt, and he jumped at the chance.

Last weekend, Muwwakkil was back, along with his wife and his girls. So were Demetrick Thomas and Cedric Lee of Leavenworth, also new to the world of gamebird hunting.

Workers at Harding Gamebirds stocked pheasants and chukars in the thick strips of cover, then guide Jim Sparks released his chocolate Lab, Sarge, and his two English setters, Pete and Sid. It wasn’t long

before the bird dogs picked up the scent and were on point.

Hunters flushed the birds and took turns shooting, keeping safety in mind. Shots rang out, birds fell and happy hunters watched in awe as the dogs retrieved the game.

One of Muwwakkil’s daughters, Eshante, was among the successful.

“At first, I didn’t know how I would like this,” she said. “I was scared of shooting at first. I thought the kick from a shotgun would hurt.

“But we started by shooting at clays (targets). Then when I went hunting, I loved it.”

She paused and laughed. “I think the boys are jealous that they don’t get to go,” she said. “They call me

See CLUB, page B5

Michigan DNR to sponsor New Year’s Day hikes

LANSING (AP) — The state Department of Natural Resources is sponsoring free, guided hikes in Michigan parks around New Year’s Day as part of a nationwide outdoor effort.

The hikes are part of the America’s State Parks First Day Hikes initiative. DNR Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson says in a

statement that the hikes “are a great way to cure cabin fever and burn off those extra holiday calories.”

Michigan state parks are calling their events “Shoe Year’s Hikes.” They include a Dec. 31 hike at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and Jan. 1 hikes at Yankee Springs

Recreation Area in Barry County and Warren Dunes State Park in Berrien County.

A Jan. 2 hike is planned at Mitchell State Park in Wexford County. Events on Jan. 3 are planned for Bay City State Recreation Area, Brighton Recreation Area, Maybury State Park in Wayne County, Porcu-

pine Mountains Wilderness State Park and Ludington State Park.

A Jan. 4 hike is scheduled at Sterling State Park in Monroe County.

The National Association of State Park Directors is involved in the effort, which organizers say was expanded last year to park systems in all states.

Park staff and volunteers will lead the hikes, which average 1 to 2 miles or longer depending on the state park involved.

Details about hike locations, difficulty and length, terrain and tips regarding proper clothing are listed online by the DNR and the National Association of State Park Directors.



(the hikes) are a great way to cure cabin fever and burn off those extra holiday calories.

RON OLSON
DNR Parks and Recreation Chief

Judge strikes down decision to remove gray wolves from the endangered list

By PAUL A. SMITH and LEE BERGQUIST
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (TNS)

MILWAUKEE — A federal judge last week struck down the federal government’s decision to remove gray wolves in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan from the endangered species list.

The decision immediately restores all protections to the wolves, which recently ended its third hunting and trapping season of the animals.

The suit was brought by the Humane Society of the United States.

“It’s a great victory for wolves and wolf conservation,” said Jonathan Lovvorn, the group’s senior vice-president and chief counsel. “We felt all along that federal protection should never have been removed.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed federal protections for gray wolves in 2012 and turned over management – and decisions on how to control their burgeoning populations – to states.

But for years before the decision, as their population grew, wolves have been thrust into a contentious tug-of-war over the appropriate level of protection for the animals.

U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell in Washington, D.C., ruled that the removal was “arbitrary and capricious” and violates the federal Endangered Species Act.

In her ruling, Howell wrote: “Wolves are the subject of heated disputes, with those on every side of the issue offering heartfelt arguments as to how best to manage this unique species. The last decade of litigation

is a testament to those passions.”

Howell said that while the Fish and Wildlife Service and others may have “practical policy reasons” for removing protections for wolves, federal regulations protecting endangered species trump those concerns.

“At times, a court must lean forward from the bench to let an agency know, in no uncertain terms, that enough is enough,” Howell wrote in the decision. “This case is one of those times.”

As a practical matter, the decision shelves state-managed hunting and trapping of wolves in the Great Lakes region. It also prohibits states from using lethal means to control wolves around depredation sites such as farms, and bars federal animal control agents from killing problem wolves.

Ralph Fritsch of Townsend in Oconto County, Wis., a hunter and longtime member of many state conservation organizations, said he feared the ruling would increase illegal killing of wolves.

“I think the state was doing a good job,” Fritsch said. “Now, a judge from out-of-state has made a decision that could make things worse for wolves. People in northern Wisconsin with low tolerance for wolves might handle it themselves, outside the law.”

“It was a mistake to prematurely strip away protections for wolves in the Great Lakes region and now that wrong is being righted,” said Collette Adkins Giese, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. “These wolves still need federal protection and this decision will help put them back on the long road to recovery.”

SKI REPORT

Latest skiing conditions, as supplied by SnoCountry Mountain Reports. Conditions are subject to change due to weather, skier/rider traffic and other factors. Be aware of changing conditions. For more information go to www.snocountry.com

Michigan

Bittersweet (Otsego) — Wed Reopen 12/25 MG machine groomed 12-24 base 16 of 20 trails 5 of 12 lifts, Mon-Thur: 3p-10p Fri: 10a-10p Sat: 9a-10:30p Sun: 9a-9p Dec 25: 3p-10:30p Dec 26-Jan 2: 9a-10:30p
Timber Ridge (Gobles) — Plan to Open 12/26
Alpine Valley — Mon Reopen 12/25 MG machine groomed 6-28 base 11 of 25 trails 44% open, 6 of 14 lifts, sm Mon-Thur: 10a-10p Fri: 10a-11p Sat: 9a-11p Sun: 9a-10p Dec 25-Jan 2: 9a-5:30p, 3p-11p
Bay Mountain — Plan to Open 12/26
Big Powderhorn — Wed 7:31 am MG machine groomed 2-24 base 12 of 33 trails 37% open, 5 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Blackjack — Wed 8:09 am 3 new packed powder machine groomed 6-36 base 20 of 24 trails 84% open, 170 acres, 4 of 6 lifts, sm Fri, Mon: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Dec 25-Jan 1: Open Open Fri-Mon
Boyne Highlands — Tue 4:54 pm MG machine groomed 30-50 base 41 of 55 trails 75% open, 400 acres, 9 of 10 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-9p Sat/Sun: 9a-9p
Boyne Mountain — Tue 4:51 pm MG machine groomed 30-50 base 28 of 60 trails 47% open, 300 acres, 9 of 12 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-9p Sat/Sun: 9a-9p
Caberfae Peaks — Wed 9:48 am packed powder machine groomed 24-44 base 30 of 34 trails 89% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Mon-Thur: 10a-8p Fri: 10a-9p Sat: 9a-9p Sun: 9a-8p Dec 25: 1p-9p Dec 26-Jan 3: 9a-9p
Cannonsburg — Sun Reopen 12/26 packed powder machine groomed 12-24 base 8 of 20 trails 40% open, 4 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 4p-9p Sat/Sun: 10a-9p
Crystal Mountain — Wed 7:54 am MG machine groomed 36-52 base 40 of 50 trails 80% open, 75 acres, 7 of 8 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-9p Sat-Sun: 9a-9p Dec 25: 10a-9p
Hickory Hills — Mon Reopen 12/26 variable 10-20 base 3 of 8 trails 38% open, 1 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 4p-8:30p Sat: 11a-8:30p Sun: 11a-5p
Indianhead — Wed 8:08 am 3 new

packed powder machine groomed 6-36 base 18 of 30 trails 60% open, 180 acres, 6 of 9 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Marquette — Tue 5:55 pm MG machine groomed 10-27 base 10 of 25 trails 40% open, 2 of 4 lifts, Mon-Fri: 11a-8:30p Sat/Sun: 10a-8:30p Dec 26: 10a-8:30p
Mont Ripley — Sun Reopen 12/26 packed powder machine groomed 12-30 base 20 of 24 trails 84% open, 3 of 3 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 3p-9p Sat/Sun: 10a-5p Dec 26-Jan 2: 10a-6p
Mount Bohemia — Plan to Open 12/26
Mount Brighton — Wed 9:37 am MG machine groomed 15-17 base 17 of 25 trails 68% open, 9 of 12 lifts, Mon-Fri: 10p-10p Sat/Sun: 9a-10p Dec 25: 12p-5p Dec 31: 9a-9:30p Jan 1: 9a-10p
Mt Holly — Tue 5:16 am MG machine groomed 18-34 base 19 of 19 trails 100% open, 7 of 14 lifts, sm Mon-Thur: 10a-10p Fri: 10a-11p Sat: 9a-11p Sun: 9a-10p
Mt. Holiday — Sat Reopen 12/26 MG machine groomed 4-6 base 5 of 12 trails 42% open, 3 of 4 lifts, Thu/Fri: 4p-8p Sat: 10a-9p Sun: 10a-6p Dec 26-Dec 30: 10a-9p Dec 31: 10a-6p Jan 1-03: 10a-9p
Norway Mountain — Wed Reopen 12/26 3 new hard packed machine groomed 10-47 base 13 of 17 trails, 160 acres, 6 of 6 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 10a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Dec 26-Jan 4: 9a-4p
Nub’s Nob — Wed 9:21 am MG machine groomed 48-55 base 44 of 53 trails 84% open, 206 acres, 5 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:30p Dec 26-30, Jan 1-04: 6p-10p
Otsego Ski Club — Operating, no details
Pine Knob — Mon Reopen 12/25 MG machine groomed 12-28 base 17 of 17 trails 100% open, 12 of 12 lifts, sm Mon-Thur: 3p-10p Fri: 12p-10p Sat/Sun: 9a-5:30p
Pine Mountain — Wed 1:03 pm packed powder machine groomed 16-24 base 12 of 27 trails 45% open, 2 of 5 lifts, sm Mon-Tue: 10a-4p Wed-Fri: 10a-8p Sat: 9a-8p Sun: 9a-4p
Shanty Creek Resort — Tue 10:39 pm variable machine groomed 6-24 base 19 of 41 trails, 73% open, 4 of 6 lifts, Mon-Wed: 9a-10p Thu: 9a-4:30 Fri: 9a-10p Sat/Sun: 9a-10p Dec 26-Jan 3: 9a-10p
Ski Brule — Wed 9:01 am hard packed machine groomed 36-48 base 17 of 17 trails 100% open, 12 miles, 150 acres, 8 of 11 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p



Scott Brand / The Evening News

The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, located just off U.S. 2 in Naubinway, Mich., features 80 different brands of snowmobiles and nearly 150 displays – like this “Then and Now” feature, which showcases past and present designs.

Snowmobiles on display

Naubinway museum features historic, unique sleds

By SCOTT BRAND
The Evening News
(Sault Ste. Marie)

NAUBINWAY — Roaring into its second year of operation at the new location, Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway is deriving tremendous benefit from moving to its new location.

“We have 80 different brands of snowmobiles here,” said John Batchelder, adding there are approximately 140 different displays.

The museum’s oldest machine, a 1936 Westendorf, was built by a Bay City man to fit in the back of his Model T truck for ice fishing. The fastest machine currently on display is described as a Boss Cat III, designed for drag racing, which posted a top speed of 128 mph. This addition, in the ever-changing rotation of displays, recently replaced the previous fastest machine – Miss Budweiser – that reached 201 mph in 1990.

The 1969 I-500 machine piloted by Dan Planck when he captured the flag in the inaugural running of snowmobile’s biggest race is featured in the racing section.

The Timberwolf, one of only eight produced, was built in Sault Ste. Marie by Dick Zabelka and Dr. Tom Robinson.

“We can account for four of them,” said Charlie Vallier while conducting a tour



Scott Brand / The Evening News

Charlie Vallier stands in front of the donor wall, which serves as a roll call for those who have helped bring The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum to the public.

of the museum. “We have two; one was crushed and another was burned up in a fire. There are four of them missing and we would love to know where they are.”

Of the old machines represented, many are one-of-a-kind creations – either special prototypes or home-made machines by barnyard engineers. But the museum’s rich history reveals that many big manufacturers – Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury, John Deere and Harley-Davidson – also entered into the booming snowmobile market as their popularity caught on with the general public.

Of all the manufacturers, only four still survive: Arctic Cat, Polaris, Ski-Doo and Yamaha.

“We’re looking for the unique sleds that have a his-

tory,” said Vallier, noting there is waiting list to get even worthy machines on display as the snowmobile collectors from near and far are more than willing to put their machines on loan to be included in the museum.

“We have plenty of machines to add on,” said Vallier with one eye on the future and a second on the finances, “but we’ll pay for this first.”

“There are other museums out there,” said Batchelder, admitting Top of the Lake might not be the biggest, “but we are about the history of snowmobiling – here we have all brands and the memorabilia along with it.”

The move to the site just off of US-2, made in October 2013, has paid great dividends in the form of in-

creased traffic. Vehicular traffic through the prime summer tourist season was drawn to the site due to the close proximity of the main east to west artery, both men explained. And Trail No. 2, which connects Drummond Island to Calumet, draws snowmobile traffic in the winter months.

“Sometimes there won’t be a vehicle in the parking lot,” said Batchelder, “but we’ll have a dozen or more snowmobiles.”

Vallier added that on cold days the riders like to come in, have a hot cocoa or chocolate in the conference room to warm up and then tour the heated facility. Maybe even, Vallier added, warm their feet by the fireplace.

The Top of the Lake Museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CLUB

From page B4

a hunting beast.”

Thomas, a major in the Army who is stationed at Fort Leavenworth, also is happy that Morris recruited him.

“I had deer hunted back home in South Carolina, but I had never been bird hunting,” he said. “It takes some getting used to.

“In the Army, we’re taught to be on target. Here, you have to lead them.

“But once you get used to it, it’s a lot of fun.”

That’s the kind of reaction Morris seeks. He has a passion for introducing blacks to hunting, even if he has to do it one person

If we could get more blacks to come out and at least give hunting a chance, I think we could change the way people see things.

ERIC MORRIS
founder of the
Black Wolf Hunting Club

at a time.

“Seeing these kids come out here and have a great time, that’s special,” he said. “If we could get more blacks to come out and at least give hunting a chance, I think we could change the way people see things.

“I think there is untapped potential there.”

FISHING REPORT

For the week ending Dec. 20

Southwest Lower Peninsula St. Joseph River: The river has steelhead in the system but the numbers are slightly below average. The better fishing is usually below Berrien Springs. Try spawn, wax worms or plugs.

Kalamazoo River: The river is still producing some steelhead. Like the St. Joseph, the number of fish is slightly below average this year. The better fishing this time of year is usually below the Allegan Dam.

Grand River near Grand Rapids: The river is still producing some steelhead. A few were caught off the wall at the post office when using a white jig tipped with a wax worm. Near Fulton Street, anglers were back

bouncing with spawn bags. The occasional walleye was caught on bucktail jigs and white twist-tail tails.

Grand River near Lansing: The river was still producing some pike and walleye for those fishing below the dams. Shiners seem to work better than sucker minnows. No steelhead to report in Lansing; however, fish were caught near Portland. Try spawn, beads and small spinners.

Muskegon River: Recent rain should not affect the river too much. Anglers are still catching some steelhead and brown trout. Many are drifting streamers, plugs, small spinners or spoons. Blue and silver were a good color.



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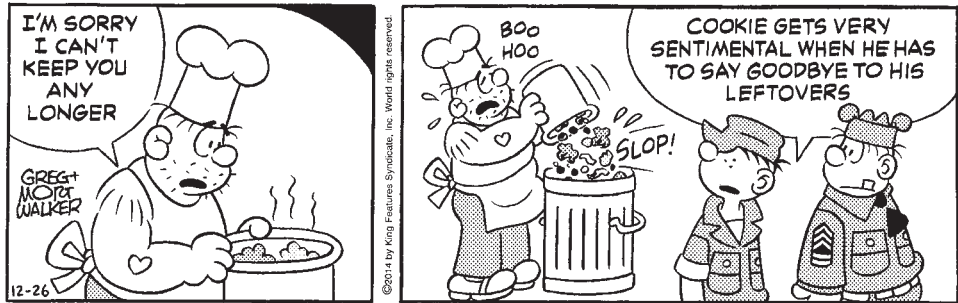
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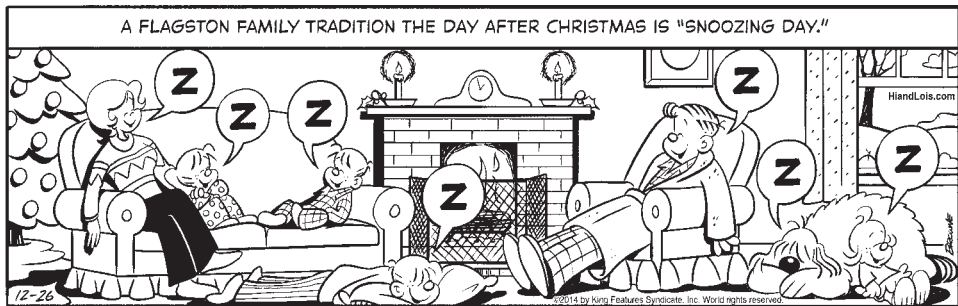
BEETLE BAILEY



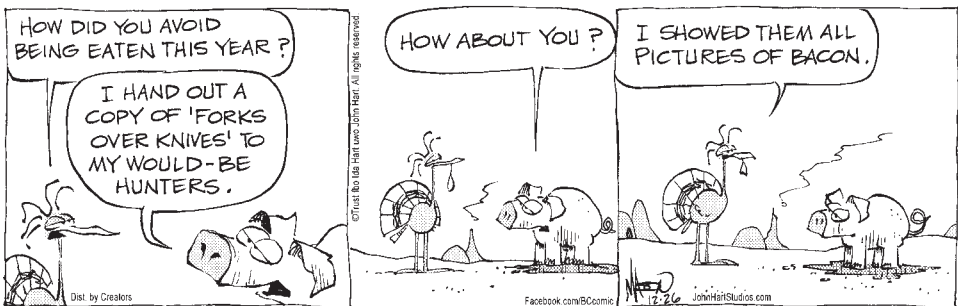
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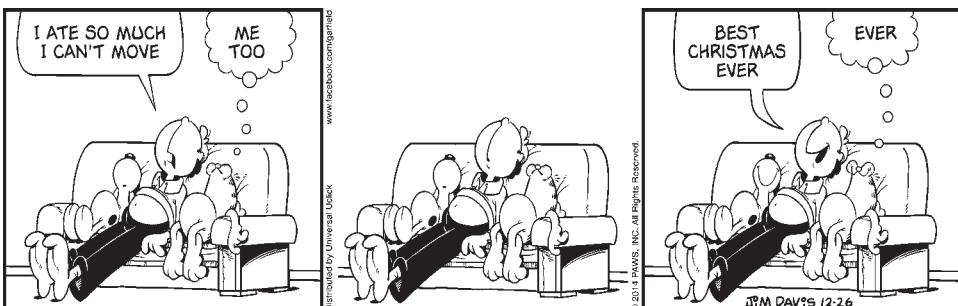
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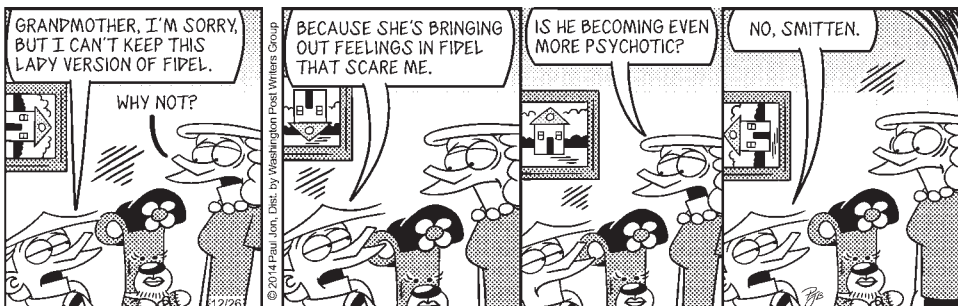
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GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



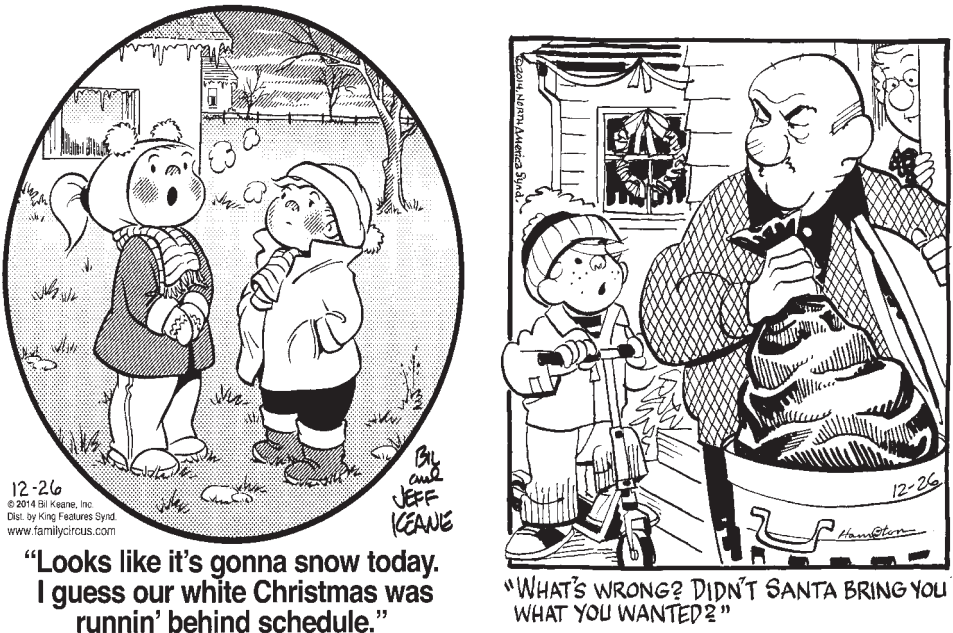
PICKLES



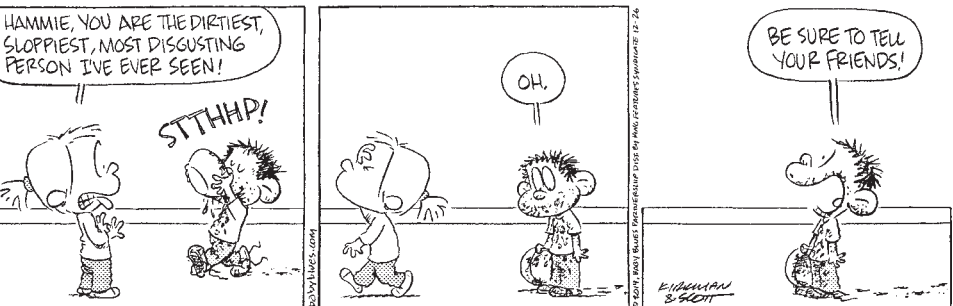
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

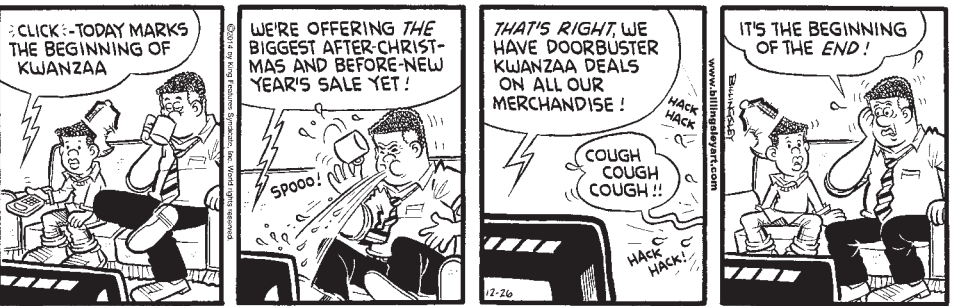
DENNIS THE MENACE



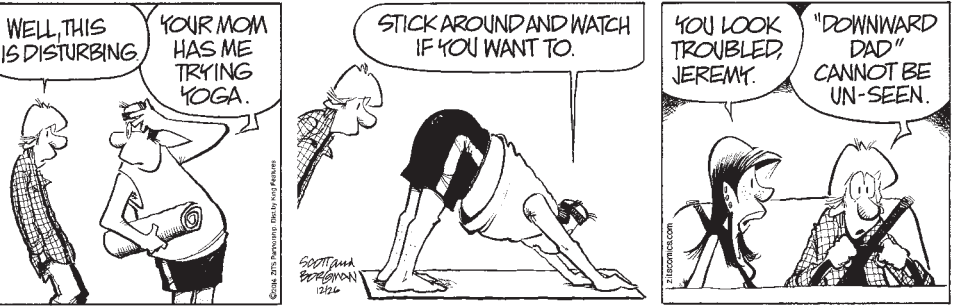
BABY BLUES



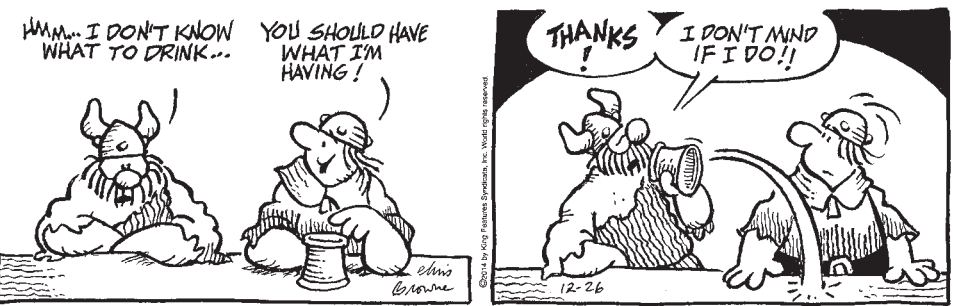
CURTIS



ZITS



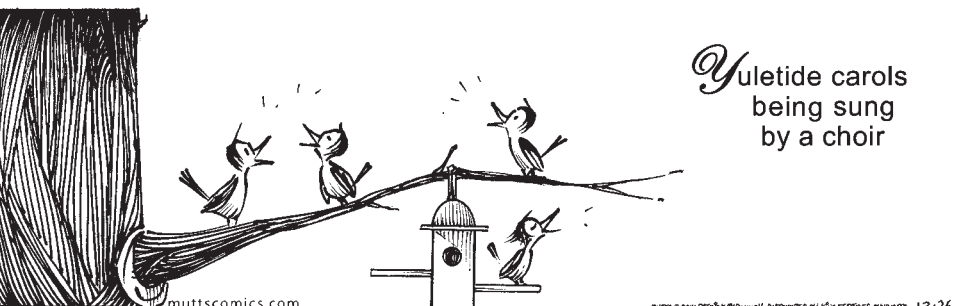
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



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- every Saturday in

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PRIME TIME TV

FRIDAY EVENING DEC. 26							
	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7)(13)(41)(57)	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man Standing	:31 Cris-tela	Shark Tank (DVS)		:01 20/20 (DVS)	
CBS (2)(3)(22)	Entertainment Ton.	Now That's Funny! On Set With TV's Hottest Comedies			Mom (DVS)	Blue Bloods "Ties That Bind" (DVS)	
NBC (5)(8)(16)	Access Hollyw'd	Caught on Camera With Nick Cannon			Dateline NBC (N) (DVS)		
FOX (17)(28)(32)	Modern Family	Ice Age: Christmas	Bob's Burgers	Glee "Previously Unaired Christmas"		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) (DVS)	
PBS (34)	Money Sense	Washington Week	Economic Outlook	Bing Crosby Rediscovered: American Masters (DVS)		Downton Abbey	
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Whose Line Is It?	Whose Line Is It?	Penn & Teller: Fool Us	News	Seinfeld (DVS)	
MNT (50)	Family Feud	Bones "A Boy in a Tree" (DVS)		Bones Ritualistic cannibalism. (DVS)	Big Bang Theory	The Simpsons	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	House of Payne	House of Payne	We There Yet?	We There Yet?	Family Guy	Raising Hope
WHME (46)	M*A*S*H (DVS)	Lester Sumrall	Paid Program	The Harvest Show News and music.		Full Circle Joyce Meyer	
WSBT (22)	:00 WSBT News at 7	ES.TV (DVS)	ES.TV (DVS)	Dr. Phil Drug-addict mom wants custody.		News	Dish Nation (N)
A&E	:00 Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds "Val-halla" (DVS)		Criminal Minds "Lauren" (DVS)		Criminal Minds (DVS)	
AMC	High Plains	Tombstone '93, Western) Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer. Doc Holiday joins Wyatt Earp for the OK Corral showdown. (DVS)					
Animal	Tree	Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		:04 Redwood Kings	
BET	4:48 The BET Awards 2014	:11 2014 Soul Train Awards (DVS)					
Big Ten	Journey	BTN Live		Big Ten Basketball			University
Bravo	Guide-Di-voice	Tombstone '08, Comedy) Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Greg Kinnear.			Baby Mama '08) Tina Fey.		
Cartoon	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Cleveland	Cleveland	American	American
Cinemax	Hobbit-Smaug	Jack the Giant Slayer '13) Nicholas Hoult, Eleanor Tomlinson. (DVS)					
CMT	** The Guardian	The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement					
CNBC	Billions	Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN	Life-Lisa	This Is Life		This Is Life		This Is Life	
Comedy	Pineapple Express '08) Seth Rogen. (DVS)						
CSNC	Sports	High School Football					
Discovery	:00 Gold Rush	Gold Rush "Colossal Clean Up" (DVS)		Gold Rush - The Dirt "Make or Break" (N)		:02 Alaskan Bush People (DVS)	
Disney	** Alvin and the Chipmunks			Gravity		Rebels	I Didn't
DIY	Salvage	Shatner	Shatner	Shatner	Shatner	Shatner	Shatner
E!	E! News	Take the Hamptons		Take the Hamptons		The Soup	
Encore	National Security	Jack the Giant Slayer '13, Comedy-Drama) Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper. (TV, DVS)					
ESPN	Football	College Football: Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl					
ESPN2	SportCtr	SportsCenter (N)		NBA Coast to Coast (N) (L) (DVS)			
ESPNC	:00 Boxing	Boxing		Boxing		Dewey Bozella	
Family	:00 ** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets '02) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. A malevolent force threatens the students at Hogwarts.						
Food	Diners	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Top 10 Restaurants	
Fox News	Record	The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)	
Fox Sports	NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons.						Pistons
FX	5:00 ** Avatar '09) Sam Worthington.	Prometheus '12, Science Fiction) Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender.					
G4	Soup	Soup	Soup	2 Months	2 Months	2 Months	2 Months
Golf	:00 PGA Tour Golf Deutsche Bank Championship Final Round.						
Hallmark	Moonlight	Fir Crazy '13, Romance-Comedy) Sarah Lancaster, Eric Johnson.			Debbie Macomber's Mrs. Miracle		
HBO	Fight Game	REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel		Comeback ** A Good Day to Die Hard '13) Bruce Willis. (DVS)			
History	Pickers	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers	
HGTV	Love-List	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Gypsy	Say Yes:The Big Day		Say Yes to the		Borrowed	Borrowed
Lifetime	Bride	** The Holiday '06) Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet. (DVS)					
MSNBC	Hardball	All In With Chris		Rachel Maddow		Lockup	
MTV	:45 Ridiculousness	Ridic.		Ridic.		Ridic.	Ridic.
NFL	NFL Total	Playbook Primetime		A Football Life		A Football Life	
Nick	Sophia & Rosie	Sam & Rosie		Full H'se		Prince	Prince
NGEO	Cosmos	Cosmos: Spacetime		Mega Tsunami, Destruction			
Oxygen	:00 ** The Back-up Plan '10) Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin.	** The Back-up Plan '10) Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin.					
Showtime	:00 The Affair	The Affair (DVS)		The Affair (DVS)		The Affair (DVS)	
Spike	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
Starz	:00 Power (iTV)	:05 Power "Who You With?" (iTV) (DVS)		:10 Power Tasha finally sees Angela.		:15 Power "Best Laid Plans" (iTV) (DVS)	
SyFy	Chupacabra	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! All the top WWE Superstars and Divas are in action.					
TBS	Seinfeld (DVS)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	**** The Dark Knight '08)	
TCM	6:00 Fail-Safe	*** Billy Rose's Jumbo '62) Doris Day. A young woman tries to save her father's failing circus.					
TMC	China Strike	*** Fruitvale Station '13) Michael B. Jordan. (DVS)			*** Kill Bill: Vol. 1 '03) Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu. (DVS)		
TNT	:00 Castle	Castle		Wake Up Call (N)		Clash of the Titans	
Travel	Mysteries	Mysteries-Museum		Mysteries-Museum		Mysteries-Museum	
TV Land	Walker, Tex. Ranger	FamFeud		FamFeud		King	King
USA	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
VH1	SNL '80s	Saturday Night Live in '80s: Pop Culture					
WGN-A	Funny Videos	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Tokyo's space org.

5 Crater edge

8 U.K. network

11 Pitch-dark

13 Rocket trajectory

14 Where Ipanema is

15 Brash

16 Wild dogs

18 Links org.

20 First sign

21 Ball of yarn

23 Cheyenne's st.

24 Holm or Fleming

25 Zilch

27 Mine car

31 So long!

32 Football field

33 Lobby furnishing

34 Author Dinesen

36 Do dock work

38 Bottle top

39 Fountain treat

40 La femme

41 Previous to

DOWN

1 Roast beef au—

2 Wheel buy (2 wds.)

3 T-shirt sizes

4 Store lane

5 Indian potatoe

6 401(k) alternative

7 Hatfield foe

8 Lingerie items

Answer to Previous Puzzle

GAMED VICAR
MADAME AERATE
ELATES BRIBED
LAMER HAYS
DOM POEM TVA
MOZART OATER
IVORY TALENT
DEN ESPN IRS
ISEE KATE
GRIN NICHE
DODGER ENSUED
ORIENT RUMBAS
CONDO RISER

9 Liver output

10 Expense

12 Secretarial skill

17 Tangles

19 Like an old oak tree

21 Right to decide (hyph.)

22 Make bread a duck

24 White wader

26 Gauge

28 Bit parts

29 Like a house —

30 — tracks (vamoosed)

35 "The Castle" author

37 Weirder

43 Strongly intends

45 Later than

46 "Fish Magic" artist

47 — cow!

48 Topmost position

49 Kind of prof.

51 Ecol. bureau

53 — and cry

54 NASA counterpart

55 Aunt or bro.

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33

34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41

42 43 44 45

46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

12-26

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUWEN

CRUCO

BEERKU

ROGFTO

Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAFER ADAPT HOURLY ZODIAC
Answer: He put up so many Christmas lights, the neighbors were in a — "HOLI-DAZE"

When will we be ready to strike back?

Soon, I have everyone under my control.

THE EMPIRE WAS ABLE TO GET ANOTHER DEATH STAR BUILT QUICKLY, THANKS TO THE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

BRIDGE

Professor Shlomo Bernartzi, a leading authority on behavioral finance, said, "Self-control is not a problem in the future. It's only a problem now when the chocolates are next to us." Bridge players need to exercise self-control, especially when there is a trump suit. The urge to remove those held by the opponents can be overwhelming, but might not be best.

In today's deal, South is in four spades. What should he do after West leads the heart ace?

East's two-diamond response was a transfer, showing at least five hearts and zero or more points. South's two-spade overcall was dangerous, but his heart length suggested that his partner would be

people with severe, frequent migraines. It doesn't prevent migraines. But it may reduce their number and duration.

Then someone else said he had a Botox injection for tennis elbow. What exactly is Botox? What else does it treat?

DEAR READER: It's true, Botox's applications are more than skin-deep. Botox is one brand of botulinum toxin A.

This is a substance made by the bacteria responsible for botulism, a foodborne illness that causes paralysis and sometimes death. When purified and diluted, however, botulinum toxin is a safe and useful drug.

Botulinum toxin is a muscle relaxant. In 1989 the FDA approved it for treating crossed eyes.

Next came approval for smoothing facial lines, or wrinkles. Since then, Botox and newer brands of botulinum toxin have been used to treat a growing number of conditions.

Some conditions that injections of botulinum toxin are currently used for include:

■ Overactive bladder and urge incontinence. Botox reduces episodes of incontinence in people for whom incontinence drugs taken by mouth don't work.

■ Chronic migraine headache. Botox is approved for treating

Spasmodic dysphonia. This unusual disorder affects about 50,000 people in the U.S. Its cause is unknown. They have trouble speaking smoothly. The words come out in a hesitant and sometimes explosive fashion. Well-known radio commentator Diane Rehm has made public the fact that she suffers from this condition — and has continued her remarkable career with proper treatment.

Once a drug is approved by the FDA, doctors can prescribe it for almost any purpose. This is called "off-label" use. Botulinum toxin is used off label to treat conditions as varied as teeth grinding, tennis elbow and pelvic pain.

It is remarkable that a toxin first known because of the terrible illness it causes, botulism, actually can be an effective treatment for many conditions — if used properly.

That's because of research directed at finding out what caused botulism. When the role of the toxin was understood, scientists also had an important insight: While too much of a bad thing can be awful, a little bit of a bad thing sometimes can be therapeutic.

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.

Sisters have different views on love and marriage

DEAR CAROLYN: My only sister (she's 25, I'm 28) has always been extremely competitive, and I lack this impulse. My sister met a guy online in May, moved in with him in September and started looking at wedding venues for next year. She's always been one to dive completely headfirst into relationships, often extremely expensive disasters that my parents have to bail her out of. This guy (and I do think he is a great guy, but I've only known him half a year) is the first who has the same headfirst goals. They also can't keep their finances under control and seem to be expecting our parents to pay for an increasingly complex wedding.

My own partner and I have been dating for almost four years, and only in the past few months decided to make a solid decision on getting married, as we feel we have our finances in order and can. Our intent was to have a very, very quiet town hall marriage sometime next year, and I feel really like we can't say, "Yeah, we were planning on getting married this coming year," when we're drowned out by her daily discussions of table settings, attire plans and guestbook designs.

I'm worried in large part that she's being her normal, highly competitive self and doing things without stepping back and thinking about it, but I also don't know how to ask if she's sure without her hollering at me for what she'll perceive as an attempt on her limelight.

Do you have any suggestion for bringing up this worry without it becoming an argument of who gets to go first? — Competitive Wedding?

DEAR COMPETITIVE: Right. No competitive impulses whatsoever.

You are in love. You want to get married. You believe you are emotionally and financially ready. Congratulations! Tell your family about your engagement at the earliest opportunity that seems appropriate, and get on your merry married way.

How much does your sister have to do with any of this?

Your sister is an adult and in love and wants to get married and thinks she's emotionally and financially ready. Repeat after me: Good for her. I hope she finds happiness.

Carolyn Hax

KAKURO

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12-26

North

10 7 4

A K J 9 8

10 7 6 3 2

West

Q J 2

A K 7 2

6 5

A Q 9 8

East

6 3

Q J 9 8 5

7 4 3 2

5 4

South

A K 9 8 5

10 6 4 3

Q 10

K J

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: Both

West 3♥

North 1NT

East 2♠

All Pass

Opening lead: ♥A

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 5 (of 5)

12-26-14

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9 4 1 8 7 6 5 2 3

7 6 5 3 1 2 8 4 9

2 3 8 4 5 9 7 1 6

4 2 9 7 3 1 6 8 5

8 5 7 9 6 4 2 3 1

3 1 6 2 8 5 4 9 7

6 9 4 5 2 3 1 7 8

5 7 2 1 9 8 3 6 4

1 8 3 6 4 7 9 5 2

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

Potential Revel casino buyer wants discount

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The Florida developer in line to purchase the former Revel Casino Hotel in Atlantic City says in court filings that the auction for the property wasn't run fairly and he wants an \$8 million discount.

Lawyers for Glenn Straub said in a court filing Wednesday that the property should be sold for \$87 million, not the \$95.4 million runner-up bid his Polo North Country Club put in at auction.

Toronto-based Brookfield Asset Management won the auction for \$110 million but backed out of the deal when it couldn't resolve a dispute over debt from the casino's costly power plant. A judge is scheduled to consider Revel's request to sell the casino to Straub on Jan. 5.

Straub says in the filing that he believes the auction was unfair because his side wasn't properly notified of the other bidder. He said he

wouldn't have bid more than his original \$90 million "stalking horse" bid that set the floor price for the auction if he knew about what he described as "significant and numerous improprieties" in the bidding process.

He also wants Judge Gloria Burns to deduct a \$3 million breakup fee he was originally promised because Revel is keeping Brookfield's \$11 million deposit.

The filing said Revel should be put up for auction again and he should get his deposit back if the judge finds that "the auction process was deficient to the extent the auction significantly and adversely affected" Revel's ability to receive the highest bid.

Straub's filing says White and Case, the law firm running the sale, also represented Brookfield, and the firm was allowed to "dictate the terms" of the auction.

At 101, dedicated union rep is calling it quits

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — At 101, Charlie Ponti has finally decided to retire for good — probably.

On Dec. 31, he will officially finish up a 77-year stint with the Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 153, where he started as a business representative and organizer and ended as the president of the local's retirees association.

"I loved what I was doing. That made me work harder. I loved to help people," said Ponti, who was celebrated at an association luncheon at a Manhattan restaurant this month.

The Rutherford, New Jersey, resident, who's still spry

and looks years younger than his age, started working for what was then the Bookkeepers, Stenographers and Accountants Union in 1937. (It took on its current title in 1967.) He remained an active member even when serving in the military during World War II, and he returned to his work duties mere weeks after coming home.

Ponti would travel all over the city in his dealings with up to 198 different union shops before retiring the first time in 1977. He then took over the job of head of the retirees association, building it up as a politically active, involved group with regular meetings and events. In recent years, that's meant going to the office once a week or so.

MARKETS



LocalStocks										
52-WK RANGE ♦ CLOSE										
NAME	TICKER	LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	
AT&T Inc	T	31.74	37.48	33.96	-.07	-0.2	▲	▼	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	45.80	60.48	61.31	+1.20	+2.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
Apple Inc s	AAPL	70.51	119.75	112.01	-.53	-0.5	▲	▼	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	465.34	626.19	617.43	-3.87	-0.6	▼	▲	▼	▲
BP PLC	BP	34.88	53.48	38.95	-.17	-0.4	▼	▼	▼	▼
BonTon	BONT	6.59	17.99	7.52	+.40	+5.6	▲	▼	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	25.95	35.04	35.69	+.81	+2.3	▲	▲	▲	▲
ChemFinl	CHFC	25.99	33.28	30.69	+.03	+0.1	▲	▲	▲	▲
CocaCola	KO	36.89	45.00	42.94	-.03	-0.1	▲	▼	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	47.74	58.20	58.07	+.17	+0.3	▲	▲	▲	▲
Deere	DE	78.88	94.89	90.26	-.59	-0.6	▲	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	69.85	95.07	94.42	-.27	-0.3	▲	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	86.19	104.76	93.78	-.81	-0.9	▲	▼	▼	▼
FamilyDlr	FDO	55.64	80.97	79.14	-.01	...	▲	▲	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	17.65	23.90	20.59	+.01	...	▲	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	27.56	34.70	34.50	+.07	+0.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	13.26	18.12	15.30	-.03	-0.2	▲	▼	▲	▲
GenElec	GE	23.69	28.09	25.83	-.05	-0.2	▲	▼	▲	▲
Google A	GOOGL	497.19	615.03	536.93	-1.84	-0.3	▲	▼	▼	▼
HomeDp	HD	73.96	104.20	103.56	-.20	-0.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	19.38	26.75	26.24	-.37	-1.4	▼	▲	▼	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	8.66	10.62	10.56	-.05	-0.5	▲	▲	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	65.91	81.82	78.10	-.13	-0.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
IntegrysE	TEG	52.08	77.84	78.30	+1.51	+2.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	150.50	199.21	161.82	-.42	-0.3	▲	▼	▼	▼
JPMorgCh	JPM	52.97	63.16	62.48	...	...	▲	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	86.09	109.49	104.59	+.31	+0.3	▼	▼	▼	▼
JournalCm	JRN	7.79	11.60	11.55	+.13	+1.1	▲	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	44.13	68.35	67.51	-.43	-0.6	▲	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	87.62	103.78	93.83	-.39	-0.4	▲	▼	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	34.63	50.05	48.14	-.31	-0.6	▲	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	26.25	32.72	29.24	-.08	-0.3	▼	▼	▼	▼
Penney	JCP	4.90	11.30	6.50	-.24	-3.6	▼	▼	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	125.37	171.57	166.11	+1.96	+1.2	▼	▼	▼	▼
Pfizer	PFE	27.51	33.12	31.42	-.03	-0.1	▼	▲	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	75.26	93.48	93.14	-.15	-0.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	31.42	40.99	40.83	+.04	+0.1	▲	▲	▲	▲
SearsHldgs	SHLD	24.10	48.25	32.56	-.37	-1.1	▼	▼	▼	▼
Steelcse	SCS	13.60	18.34	18.23	+.16	+0.9	▲	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	74.02	98.24	96.00	-.61	-0.6	▲	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	54.66	75.07	74.65	-.04	-0.1	▲	▲	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	55.95	79.14	77.80	-.66	-0.8	▲	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	93.19	113.10	112.41	-.04	...	▲	▲	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	45.09	53.66	47.67	...	...	▲	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	72.27	88.09	86.43	-.23	-0.3	▲	▲	▲	▲
Walgrn	WAG	55.27	77.22	76.67	+.16	+0.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	7.61	10.27	9.00	+.14	+1.6	▲	▲	▲	▲
Whirlpl	WHR	124.39	193.78	191.15	+.02	...	▲	▲	▲	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	29.59	45.39	30.41	+.34	+1.1	▲	▼	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	22.84	42.50	41.97	-.51	-1.2	▲	▲	▲	▲



In this 2011 file photo, a worker walks by an oil derrick outside of Williston, N.D. Relief could be on the horizon for strapped public services in the Northern Plains' booming oil patch, as elected leaders in Montana and North Dakota move to steer more money into the region during the states' upcoming legislative sessions.

Lawmakers promise to help strapped oil-patch towns

By MATTHEW BROWN
and JAMES MACPHERSON
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Relief could be on the horizon for strapped public services in the Northern Plains' booming oil patch, as elected leaders in Montana and North Dakota move to steer more money into the region during the states' upcoming legislative sessions.

Tens of thousands of workers have been drawn to the region's shale oil boom in recent years. Their arrival has brought increased demands for services ranging from roads and sewage treatment to affordable housing.

Prior efforts to put more money toward those needs came up short or got delayed by political disagreement.

Political leaders on both sides of the Montana-North Dakota border said they are optimistic more can be done

in 2015. Lawmakers from the states convene in early January.

"We're very hopeful we'll be able to find a path where we can do it this session," Montana Gov. Steve Bullock said.

Most drilling for oil and gas is in North Dakota. Yet the population growth from the boom has spilled over the border, and both states face rising pressures on infrastructure that are taxing the ability of local governments to keep pace.

In North Dakota, Gov. Jack Dalrymple is proposing to change the formula for oil and gas tax distributions so local governments get 60 percent, up from the current 25 percent.

Senate Republican Majority Leader Rich Wardner said that revamped funding formula favoring western North Dakota communities likely will be the biggest top-

ic facing lawmakers when the Legislature convenes Jan. 6.

Democrats in the North Dakota Legislature tried unsuccessfully to get a special session called in February to address tax distributions.

"There's going to be debate, but I think it will pass," said Wardner, whose district is located within the oil patch. "Counties and cities in the Bakken — they are the ones that really need the help."

Wardner said lawmakers from other parts of the state are largely sympathetic to the problems in western North Dakota. The state's oil-producing region needs everything from water and sewer plants to roads and affordable housing, he said.

In Montana, Bullock is pushing \$45 million in grants and other spending in eastern Montana cities and towns where basic services

are strapped.

The Democratic governor in 2013 vetoed a broader measure that would have set aside money from mineral revenues to pay for water, sewer and road projects in the Bakken oil-producing region.

Despite overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, Bullock said the veto was necessary to maintain the state's budget reserve and keep it from sliding into deficit.

His latest proposal for the oil patch is tucked into a \$300 million statewide infrastructure plan.

Montana Senate President Debby Barrett, a Republican, said she wants the eastern Montana money separated from the larger package so it can be addressed on its own merits.

Bullock expressed reluctance to break up the plan into smaller pieces.

Firm recalls caramel apples amid listeria fears

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Missouri firm is recalling its Happy Apple brand caramel apples because of the potential that they could be contaminated with listeria. The recall comes after at least three deaths and at least 29 illnesses in 10 states have been linked to an outbreak of the deadly bacteria.

Happy Apple Co. of Washington, Missouri, said in a statement Wednesday that one of the apple suppliers to its California facility reported that there may be a connection between

the listeria outbreak and the apples it had supplied. The recall covers 31 states.

The Food and Drug Administration is continuing to advise consumers not to eat prepacked, commercially produced whole caramel apples.

The recalled Happy Apple caramel apples were sold in single pack, three packs, four packs and eight packs with a best use by date between Aug. 25 and Nov. 23. They were available for retail sale through grocery, discount and club stores in Alabama, Arizona,

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

Happy Apple said the recalled caramel apples were no longer available in stores.

The grocery chain Safeway pulled prepackaged

caramel apples from its shelves after the family of an 81-year-old woman who died of listeria filed suit Monday. She had bought several caramel apples from a Safeway supermarket in Felton, California, in October, the suit claimed.

The FDA says five deaths have been reported, with listeriosis contributing to three of the deaths. It is unclear whether it contributed to a fourth, the agency said, while a fifth death was unrelated to listeriosis, the infection caused by the bacteria.



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By EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
Your ability to designate tasks will be an important facet of your success this year. There is only so much you can do on your own, so put your trust in people who share your visions and can facilitate your plans. If you try to handle everything yourself, you will miss your goal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will receive gifts or money from a surprising source. An unexpected visitor will brighten your day and take your mind off your troubles. Travel delays can be expected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your generosity and charity will enable you to do a good turn for someone less fortunate than yourself. The reward you get in return will be surprising and could influence your future.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You will have to be careful about what you say to avoid a clash with someone who grates on your nerves. Keep your opinions to yourself and change the topic if a discussion becomes heated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's time to relax and let others take charge for a change. You have helped those around you to the best of your ability, and now you deserve some time to yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take a moment to be introspective. Reflecting on the past year will allow you to see how far you have come and how much fur-

ther you wish to go.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Get together with an old friend. The interaction will help remind you of past goals and encourage you to make the effort to achieve them next year.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may be anticipating big vocational changes in the new year, but for now remain focused on love and family. Your career plans will unfold when the time is right.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Make today a time of joy and sharing. Consider helping out at a charitable event. The connections you make could have a positive impact on your future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Avoid getting drawn into a confrontation. You don't have to agree with what is said, but it will help if you are diplomatic and strive to keep the peace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Make changes to your living arrangements. Get your point across without accusations or demands. An equitable solution will be found if you don't let your temper get out of control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A change of scenery will motivate you to take a new direction next year. Ask for guidance from someone you respect. Do your research and forge ahead with your plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Overspending, overeating or drinking too much will lead to emotional blackmail and manipulation. Moderation will be the key to having a good time, free of regrets.

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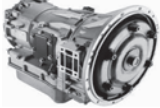
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